



# THE INDEPENDENT

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WEATHER: Mostly dry and bright

(R45P) 40p



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## The moral backlash

Crusaders are taking on the politicians - but history suggests they have an uphill struggle, writes Jack O'Sullivan

A crusade for the remoralising of the country has hit British politicians, and they have been quick to react. Yesterday, Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered head teacher, Philip Lawrence, unveiled a personal manifesto aimed at creating a less violent society based on common civic values.

Within hours, leaders of the main political parties backed her initiative. Her ideas were "very exciting", according to Tony Blair, "very valuable", said the Lib Dems and, promised John Major, they would feature in the Tory election platform. Her initiative came hard on the heels of the Snowdrop Petition from Dunblane parents and their supporters, whose moral anger forced MPs into changing policy on handguns.

These non-party campaigners, speaking for victims, seem to have caught the mood of the moment, a sense of frustration that Britain is becoming socially fractured while its formal leaders write their heads. They follow urgent warnings about the country's condition from religious leaders.

New moralisers, like Mrs Lawrence, may be unorthodox in politics. But they have been remarkably effective in sparking debate and demonstrating the gulf between Westminster and city streets. Their activities show how easy access to the media means outsiders can challenge the traditional way of doing politics.

Many of these new moralisers are women, determined after a traumatic experience that "something must be done".

So Jayne Zito, whose husband was killed by the deranged schizophrenic, Christopher Clunis, has succeeded in placing the failures of community care higher up the political agenda. The Snowdrop Petition is driven by local women who started by gathering more than 700,000 signatures, and ended up badgering reluctant politicians into accepting most of their proposals last week.

The new moralisers can be found among churchmen and politicians too. Yesterday, the Catholic bishops of England and Wales set out unusually specific demands for a statutory minimum wage, constitutional reform and action on unemployment.

On Sunday, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, spoke emotionally about controlling video violence to undermine Britain's gun culture.

"What do you expect if night after night, and in our cinemas, we see material which glorifies gratuitous violence?" he asked.

In June, the Archbishop of Canterbury told *The Independent* about his



Effective: Frances Lawrence yesterday, urging action towards a less violent society. Photograph: Glynn Griffiths

plans for a crusade to remoralise the country. Much of what he said was strikingly similar to Mrs Lawrence's manifesto; he demanded a new moral agenda in schools and an end to what he called "the privatisation of moral-

ity", the loss of a common sense of right and wrong.

But he also pointed to the danger that such rhetoric can too easily be wasted breath. "When I am at my most pessimistic," he said, "I seriously

doubt whether we can actually do any more than blow trumpets from castle tops and warn."

The Archbishop hit on the crucial problem. Do these calls to action produce real results? Will Frances

Inside  
**Politicians rush to join the crusade.**  
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Lawrence's stirring call produce an effective programme to tackle some of the factors, such as parenting, schooling and availability of weapons, that lay behind 16-year-old Leroo Chindamo stabbing her husband?

Media interest can be quickly aroused, but it is also quickly deflated. Media-based campaigns tend to be vivid but brief. Problems facing those taking the moral high ground have been demonstrated in earlier crusades.

In 1976, Betty Williams and Mairead Corrigan launched the Northern Ireland peace movement in a wave of anger and grief generated by the deaths of three children in a horrific incident in west Belfast. They won the Nobel Peace prize for rallying popular opposition to violence. Yet, the movement fell apart. It failed to be instrumental in the political process: another 18 years passed before a ceasefire was declared.

Of earlier crusades, Frank Buchman's Moral Re-orientation, which was launched in the 1920s, became associated with obsessive anti-Communism and has become moribund since the end of the Cold War. The National Viewers and Listeners' Association, the creation of Mary Whitehouse, a brilliant publicist and campaigner, has lost some of its admittedly narrow impact since her retirement in 1993. Victoria Gillick was prominent for a time as a champion of family values and an opponent of abortion.

And even those organisations which achieve concrete results may have limited life. The Snowdrop group has, its organisers say, largely done its work, since the Government has all but caved in. It will probably be wound up. Those who have learned so much, so quickly about the political process may not put their education to further use.

In the past, the campaigns which lasted, like the Temperance Movement, were those which developed a strong organisation with a limited agenda. But there has been no striking example in the West of a general campaign for restoring the social fabric putting down those kinds of roots. There are, however, signs of new political institutions growing up, such as the Citizens Organising Foundation, which avoid the complacency of conventional parties, offer a voice for the moral demands of ordinary people plus a mechanism to implement them.

For them, as for all the lone campaigners, religious leaders and politicians who seize the moment, the hardest question may be this: how can one avoid today's passionate call for "a moral crusade" being merely a fashion, forgotten tomorrow?

## Orchestras owe it all to hospital chef

David Lister  
Arts News Editor

London's world famous symphony orchestras have been giving away thousands of tickets to classical concerts, an investigation by *The Independent* has established. As the traditional music season starts, concert-goers will again find themselves paying full price for seats while others in the audience get in for free.

The large-scale ticket giveaway operation is practised by the orchestras and other institutions, including the Royal Shakespeare Company, English National Opera and blockbuster West End musicals.

For a Royal Festival Hall gala concert involving the London Philharmonic and Royal Philharmonic orchestras, conducted by Sir George Solti, around 1,000 of the 2,700 seats were given away by the orchestras - fearful that Sir George would be appalled if he saw so many empty seats.

Strangely, the operation involves the head chef at a London hospital, Frank Raulston, who is given scores, and sometimes hundreds, of seats virtually every week to pass to nurses and other hospital employees.

Over the last 12 years Mr Raulston has become a music lover himself, and London's hospital staff have become classical music connoisseurs. He said yesterday: "Doing this has turned me into a music fan. But I have to sit through a lot of crap as well."

The implications are profound. The orchestras are given millions of pounds of taxpayers' money by the Arts Council. It is now open to question whether the Arts Council has been giving public money away on the basis of incorrect perceptions.

Last night Kieran Cooper, head of marketing for the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra admitted: "It's accepted practice

that in the majority of cases the bums on seats figure is the one we use. We give out that figure even if it includes tickets that have been given away."

David Whelton, managing director of the Philharmonia Orchestra - which refuses to give away tickets for its concerts - said: "What's happening is an unethical application of Arts Council subsidy. Other orchestras are getting their grant on the basis of false figures. It's very disappointing."



"All the grants should now be reviewed. It also means that the Arts Council believes that the public is interested in certain minority works, when in fact they haven't been interested in buying tickets for them at all."

*The Independent* has also learned that when Serge Dorey, the new managing director of the London Philharmonic, arrived at the orchestra he was flabbergasted to discover what had been going on. A spokeswoman confirmed that Mr Dorey has told senior management that henceforth all tickets must be sold in the proper manner.

Spokespeople for the Barbican and Royal Festival Hall said last night that only fully paid attendances were declared. Cultural epicentre, page 3

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## MPs ban TV and radio from sleaze hearings

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

Television and radio coverage is expected to be barred by the committee investigating Commons sleaze allegations. The power to order a ban was endorsed by the Commons last year, because the Government feared bulletins could magnify the impact of hearings on the public.

Government whips believe that while they cannot exclude the press from the most dramatic hearings, television and sound broadcasts would risk turning proceedings into a media "circus". The Tory majority on the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee - chaired by the Cabinet minister Tony Newton, Leader of the Commons - will be used to ensure cameras and microphones are kept out.

The ban will cover potentially explosive evidence to be taken over the next few weeks by the committee from David Willetts, a Treasury minister and former whip who is alleged to have improperly intervened to defuse an earlier Commons in-



Gagging act: Tony Newton (left) and Neil Hamilton

quiry into claims that the Tory MP Neil Hamilton received cash from Mohamed al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

But broadcasters could also be barred from hearings that could eventually be staged in the report, being prepared by Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, into allegations against Mr Hamilton. The drama of Commons sleaze hearings is certain to be increased by the

Nolan clean-up. However, a report endorsed by MPs last year said: "In the special circumstances of the proposed new committee [Standards and Privileges] there is a case for allowing it a discretion to preclude the televising or sound broadcasting of particular hearings held in public."

"It could only be justified in relation to the new committee on the grounds that the broadcasting of the examination of witnesses - particularly in the form of brief and unrepresentative extracts on news programmes - would risk giving wide and immediate publicity, under the protection of parliamentary privilege, to serious allegations against individual members (and others). These might subsequently prove to be wholly unfounded but the manner of their publication would allow no effective remedy."

But last year's report said: "The House has no power, in the absence of legislation akin to the Contempt of Court Act, to control or restrict the reporting by the press of proceedings to which they have been admitted."

### QUICKLY

**Wembley triumphs**  
Wembley's adoption as the national stadium appeared a formality after votes of confidence from football, athletics and rugby league. They confirmed the worst fears of the only rival, Manchester. Page 26

**MI6 'aided uprising'**  
Some of the rebels who took on the might of the Soviet Union in the Hungarian uprising were trained by MI6, the British Secret Intelligence Service, it is claimed. Both the CIA and MI6 had buried arms caches around Prague. Page 13

**Bass bid hitch**  
The Office of Fair Trading suggests that the bid by Carlsberg and Tellef for Bass should be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Page 18

**Cars win space race**  
The winning design for the building to replace the widely disliked headquarters of the Department of the Environment, in Marsham Street, London, contains space for 1,200 cars. The present building can take only 300. Page 5

**'No crisis' in Belgium**  
Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, denied that there was a crisis of confidence in the state. Every country had moments of emotional problems that brought political change, he said. Page 9

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## news

## significant shorts

## Stagg says he has murder evidence

Colin Stagg, acquitted by an Old Bailey judge two years ago of murdering Rachel Nickel, yesterday requested £4,000 to show evidence he says proves he did not commit the crime.

Mr Stagg issued a statement claiming he had material which could point to the killer of Rachel, who was stabbed to death four years ago on Wimbledon Common in south-west London. It read: "I am in possession of new evidence that could help find out who the real killer is. A woman came to see us with more details. But I am not willing to name her without being paid."

Later, he denied asking for £4,000 to help find the real killer of Rachel. He said he actually wanted the cash to refute allegations in the *Mail on Sunday* at the weekend. **Michael Streeter**

## Football kicks at racism

Glenn Hoddle, the England manager, yesterday supported an initiative designed to tackle the under-representation of Asians in football. At the launch of Let's Kick the Racism Out of Football's fourth season, Mr Hoddle said that progress had been made, but there was still work to be done. "Racism is something that's unfortunately going out of the game, but it's a momentum that has to be maintained," he said. **Clare Garner**

## Sympathy for widows

The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority yesterday warned of the dangers loosening the law on fertility treatment too much. It sympathised with widows such as Diane Blood, 30, who last week lost her High Court battle to have a child using her late husband's sperm because she did not have his written consent and a similar case revealed yesterday, but said: "Consent where possible is too loose... You need consent at all times."

## Beef industry asks minister for £15m

Meat producers have asked the Government for £15m to help the beef market recover in the wake of the crisis over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Don Curry, chairman of the Meat and Livestock Commission, said at the Sial food fair in Paris yesterday, that the cash was needed to recover the 20 per cent drop in consumption experienced since March. He has written to the Minister of Agriculture, Douglas Hogg, requesting a decision before the end of the year.

## Prisoners' health burden

The Government came under renewed pressure last night over its refusal to transfer the medical care of prisoners to the National Health Service.








In a draft of a discussion paper, leaked to Channel 4 News in advance of official publication on Friday, Sir David Ramsbotham, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, concludes that "as has been recommended but never implemented in the past, the NHS should assume responsibility for the delivery of all healthcare, by the introduction of a purchaser/provider relationship that acknowledges the full and peculiar needs of the Prison Service." **Patricia Wynn Davies**

## Fines for hedge vandals

New laws to protect historic and wildlife-rich hedgerows in England and Wales were belatedly published in draft form yesterday - six years after they were first proposed by government.

Landowners will have to notify their local council before stripping out any hedge more than 20m long. The council has one month to decide whether to refuse permission. Disobedient landowners could face a fine of £5,000 by magistrates, or an unlimited fine if the offence is serious enough to go to a Crown Court. **Nicholas Schoon**

## Grassroots backlash: Victims set agenda that politicians follow

BEARERS OF THE MESSAGE	What they stand for	What they say
	Nationwide campaign to end violence and promote civil values; ban on court knives; raise status of police/teachers; encourage good citizenship in schools; emphasis on 'three Es' - effort, earnestness and excellence. Government not to be neutral on family, and parents not to live separate lives from children.	"Each of us has the potential to be a force for good but... we need to rally the majority who have been silent for too long."
	Aims to ban all handguns from Britain, either to be kept at home or in clubs. The Government's proposed ban on all but 22 calibre handguns meets most of their demands and the group may decide to 'withhold' once the legislation is passed.	Organiser Jackie Walsh says: "We want to ban the ownership of all handguns in Britain."
	Formed in 1976 in Northern Ireland to build a 'just and peaceful society for all'. Prompted initial euphoria leading to Jacki McDonald Price for the Nobel Peace Prize for the same year. Still works hard for peace but has self-evidently not dived into it in the Province.	"We want to live and love and build a just and peaceful society."
	Established National Viewers and Listeners Association in 1965 to encourage viewers and listeners to react effectively to programme contents; and to safeguard against obscenity - including violence - and pornography in the media. Founder and Emerita President Mrs Whitehouse still plays an active role.	"It's not only the children who are being corrupted by the media, it's the adults too."
	The Catholic Church in England and Wales. The church's stance on social issues, including the death penalty, abortion, and homosexuality, is a key part of its moral teaching.	"The deepening of the spiritual life must go hand in hand with practical concern for our neighbours and with social action." <b>Cardinal Basil Hume</b>
	Tony Blair backs 'civic society' - 'individual responsibility' and 'citizenship' - as the basis for a new social contract. He has promised to support a national strategy for education for parenthood; would enhance status of teachers; higher pay grades for wider experience, and general teaching council; big boost promised for youth training and work experience.	"What excites me about the possibility of this debate is it puts right back firmly on the agenda the notion that there is such a thing as society." <b>Tony Blair</b>
	John Major is promoting 'civic society' - 'individual responsibility' and 'citizenship' - as the basis for a new social contract. He has promised to support a national strategy for education for parenthood; would enhance status of teachers; higher pay grades for wider experience, and general teaching council; big boost promised for youth training and work experience.	"I am sure we should reduce the amount of violence on TV. But it is also the responsibility of the parents." <b>John Major</b>

## Parties rush to embrace the new moral crusade

**Colin Brown**  
Chief Political Correspondent

Political leaders competed with each other to embrace the new moral agenda put forward by Frances Lawrence, the widow of the murdered teacher Philip Lawrence.

Mrs Lawrence's campaign for a change of moral climate in Britain looked certain to dominate the opening of the final session of Parliament tomorrow with the Queen's Speech listing a range of Bills, including the Gun Control Bill, introduced in the wake of the Dunblane massacre.

John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown united in welcoming the social agenda put forward by Mrs Lawrence to deal with law and order, education and "civic responsibility".

Doors around Whitehall were being thrown open to Mrs Lawrence, who in recent days has met the Prime Minister and discussed her campaign with Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Gillian Shephard, Secretary of State for Education.

The Labour leader said was "excited" by her campaign to recruit parents and politicians to begin primary school lessons in good citizenship, restore family finances, and stop children seeking "refuge in the harsh, unfamiliar and tenuous

camaraderie of the streets".

"She has done a real service to the country," Mr Blair said. "She is saying there is something fundamentally wrong with the society in which we live and we have to decide as a society what are our moral values upon which we want to rebuild Britain as a decent civil society for today's world."

Some Shadow Cabinet members were seeking meetings with Mrs Lawrence to discuss their plans and her ideas. David Blunkett, shadow education secretary, made it clear he favoured citizenship being included in the national curriculum and the status of teachers being raised to that of other professions.

Not to be outdone, Mrs Shephard said she had given an undertaking to Mrs Lawrence in private talks to respond to her demands for action, and the schools curriculum authority was already looking at the inclusion of civic responsibility issues in the revised curriculum.

Downing Street said Mrs Lawrence had "touched a chord

with government strategy". Mrs Lawrence said: "I have just been talking to the Home Secretary who will be giving his support, obviously. I am sure you will be hearing what he has to say in the next couple of days."

Home Office sources were guarded, but Mr Howard may seek to put a range of law and order measures in the Queen's Speech in the context of the wider campaign led by Mrs Lawrence to tackle the lawlessness among young people which claimed her husband's life.

Alex Carlile, for the Liberal Democrats, described a moral crusade, or trying to instil a sense of duty and responsibility in young people, as "very valuable".

He warned against patronising young people but said Mrs Lawrence had hit on a very important point. "We must not accept the inevitability of thugs roaming the streets, of tragedies like that which befell her husband," he said. "We can work with young people to give them better aspirations."

## Tragic events that can spark change

**Michael Streeter**

The "manifesto for the nation", launched by Frances Lawrence, widow of the murdered head teacher Philip, has echoes of the campaign set up after Dunblane, and the women's peace movement in Ireland.

In each case an "ordinary" woman or group of women had been thrust into the public domain by tragedies impacting closely on their lives.

The success of the Snowdrop Campaign, with its narrowly focused attempt to get all handguns banned, has been marked; the legacy of the broader bruised movement in Northern Ireland 20 years on is harder to gauge.

For Mrs Lawrence, who has referred to both movements, the catalyst was the stabbing to death of her husband at the gates of St George's Roman Catholic in Maida Vale, west London, last December.

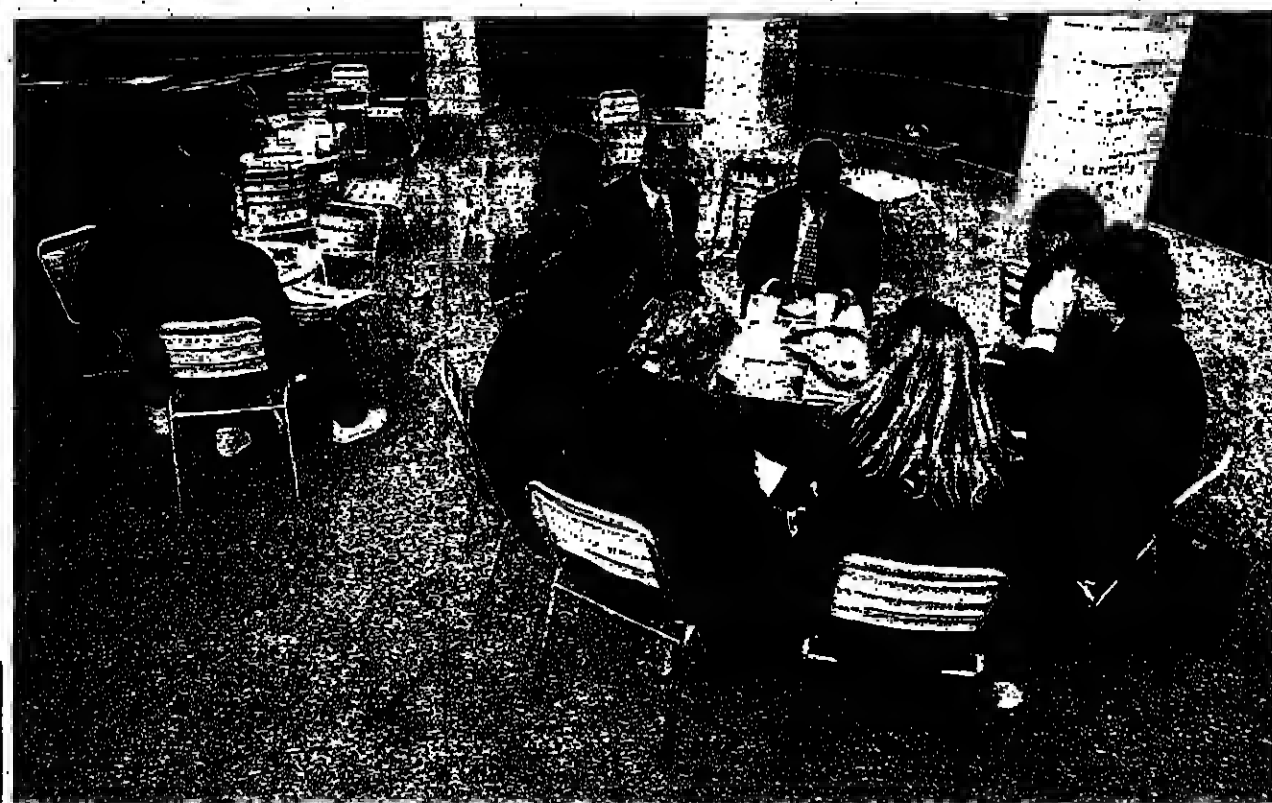
Now that her husband's killer has been convicted and sentenced, she is determined to stimulate a new debate and a new movement dealing with how to "banish violence", heal society and change the "moral climate" for the better.

Mrs Lawrence claims her manifesto contains "no policies, pledges or plans of action". But in fact her campaign for "civic peace" contains a number of proposals, ranging from the concrete idea to the aspirational. One clear idea, which echoes the simplicity of the single-issue Snowdrop Campaign, is to ban knives. Though she is less specific about which type should be banned, she refers to "battlefield blades" and argues their sale be banned.

On education, Mrs Lawrence clearly draws on the views of her late husband as well as her own, and calls for good citizenship lessons to begin early in a child's school life. She wrote in *The Times*: "Schools should inculcate an appreciation of the civic bond, the respect we owe to others and the duties we owe to society."

Mrs Lawrence also proposes the encouragement of what she calls the three E's - effort, earnestness and excellence - and urges the discussion of moral questions behind political debate. Last precisely, she also calls for the raising in status of teachers and police, as key contact points for young people.

Her aim, she says, is that these cornerstones of her manifesto will spark a debate. "My hope is that out of the terrible violence that pierced the heart of my family... a new ethics may be constructed in which neglected virtues are reinstated and cherished and sustained."



Grand vision: Members of The East London Communities Organisation meeting yesterday. Photograph: Andrew Buurman

## 'Mrs Lawrence doesn't have the tools to achieve her vision. We do'

**Louise Jury**

A perennial problem with past campaigns "to re-moralise Britain" is that they speak with middle-class accents, and have most impact on affluent suburbs where the problem is out.

What about the poorer, more crime-haunted communities? Who is campaigning there for a better social fabric? As it happens, quite a lot of people and organisations - ranging from self-help groups to educational and campaigning organisations like the Phoenix Centre in Birmingham.

One of the most interesting recent developments is the growth of "people power" organisations based on churches, mosques, synagogues and Hindu temples throughout England.

In their statement of aims and ideals, the members of the Citizen Organising Foundation

quote *Proverbs 29:18*: "Where there is no vision the people perish."

Mrs Lawrence would doubtless agree. But what do they mean in practice? Yesterday, The East London Communities Organisation (Telco), the sixth member of the foundation, gathered to hammer out strategy for their first meeting with Sylvia Pearce, chief executive of the London Borough of Tower Hamlets.

Telco, an example of a new flowering of community organisations in inner-city Britain, is to be officially launched at a meeting on 20 November with MPs, business and religious leaders and up to 1,300 supporters with "an agenda for justice about jobs, low wages, discrimination, poverty, schools".

But if that makes it sound like any number of other socially concerned campaigning organisations, the major backing from local religious centres alongside tenants' associations and community groups brings a strong sense of moral mission.

Neil Jameson, the foundation's secretary, said yesterday: "Mrs Lawrence doesn't have a tool to achieve what she wants to achieve and that's really important. We believe we have the techniques."

The morality is nothing abstract. Instead, it is a strongly grass-roots effort to make the world a better place.

Mary Moylan, of St Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Bow, and the Filippio Chaplaincy, said: "It's moral in the sense of bringing the values of humanity. When you mention the word morality, it sounds like sitting in judgement. This is nothing to do with judgement."

Joy Coogan, of Alpha Grove Community Centre, Isle of Dogs, said the point was standards, not morality. "The com-

munity wants to improve their way of life. Morality doesn't come into it."

Paul Bunyan, a youth worker with the Citizen Organising Foundation, said meeting Mrs Pearce of Tower Hamlets council was an important step towards achieving their aim of giving the people of east London a way of acting on their values and ideals.

"She is a very significant person. If we're going to effect change we've got to get into a relationship with her."

The approach is a mix of working-class idealism and religious humanitarianism. If Frances Lawrence wants a practical model for bringing people together perhaps part of the answer can be found in the rawer and grittier world of Telco.

R David Muir of Mile End New Testament Church, expressed it quite simply: "It is people working together for the common good."

Anti-abortion campaigners reacted with fury at the suggestion that Catholics might under some circumstances vote for pro-choice candidates. Phyllis Bowman, of the anti-abortion charity Spuc, attacked Cardinal Hume as "totally disloyal to the Pope". The document condemns abortion only as one of many evils afflicting modern society.

"If it were still legal to kill Catholic bishops and priests, there is no doubt that the church would recognise the right to life as the most fundamental social injustice of the day," Mrs Bowman said.

A launch of the document, Cardinal Hume said: "A person has to vote in accordance with their informed conscience, and this could be different for different people."

The *Common Good*, a statement by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, £3.

## Bishops' manifesto upsets Chancellor

**Andrew Brown**  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

The Catholic Church came under strong attack from both Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and anti-abortion campaigners last night over its views on the economy and abortion contained in its new social teaching document.

Almost every distinguishing practice of the Thatcher years is attacked by the 35-page doc-

ument, although at its launch yesterday, Cardinal Basil Hume, the leader of Catholics in England and Wales, insisted it is not party political. "Left to themselves, market forces are just as likely to lead to evil results as good ones. The end result of market forces must be scrutinised and if necessary corrected in the name of natural law, social justice, human rights, and the common good."

Rounding on the Catholic

bishops, Mr Clarke rejected as "disastrous" their call on BBC radio for a statutory minimum wage.

"If I had a Roman Catholic bishop here [I would tell him] the statutory minimum wage is a quite disastrous way of going about it. You don't create more jobs that people can move to from benefit. What you do is destroy jobs and increase unemployment, particularly among the low-skilled."

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## For a cricket lover:

The Village Cricket Tour will give you hours of pleasure. A novel which describes the adventures and mishaps of a team of amateur cricketers who spend two weeks of their summer holidays on a cricket tour of the West Country and which has been compared to Jerome K Jerome's classic 'Three Men in a Boat'. "I enjoyed it immensely" wrote Peter Tinniswood in *Punch*. "He has succeeded in writing a book that will entertain, a book that will amuse and warm the cockles of tired hearts." "Coleman is a very funny writer," said *The Independent*. "It would be a pity if cricketers were the only people to read this book." "Sensational reading, includes de Salicrute and Blunden and should now embrace Vernon Coleman's latest offering, a whimsical piece about the peregrinations of a village cricket team on its summer tour," said *The Cricketer* magazine. "All the characters are here, woven together by a raft of anecdotes and reminiscences and a travelogue of some of the most picturesque spots in the south west." A marvellous present for all cricket lovers.

## For a golf lover:

Anyone who likes golf will love *The Man Who Inherited a Golf Course*. This superb novel tells the story of Trevor Dickinson who wakes up one morning to find that he is the owner of his very own golf club - fairways, bunkers, clubhouse and all. There's one snag: to keep the club he must win a golf match. And he's never played a round of golf in his life. "The scenario is tailor made for Vernon Coleman's light and amusing anecdotes about country life and pursuits" said *The Sunday Independent*. "Very readable" said *Golf World*. "Highly enjoyable is the best tradition of British comic writing," said *The Evening Chronicle*. "The mix of anecdotes and moments of sheer force make for an absorbing read" said *The Evening Telegraph*. A terrific present for anyone who enjoys golf. Far more fun than another pair of socks or a bottle of aftershave.

## For a cat lover:

Feline fans will love *Alice's Diary* which tells of a year in the life of a mixed tabby cat. Alice shows us, with great humour and insight, what it is really like to be a cat. Our files are bursting with letters from readers who love this book. "What a wonderful book, so beautifully written, it was a great pleasure to read" wrote Mrs Y of Essex. "Please send copies of Alice's Diary to the eleven friends on the accompanying list. It is a wonderful book which will give them all great pleasure," wrote Mr R of Lancashire. Alice's Diary is delightfully illustrated throughout. But we warn you: when you see it you may not want to give it away! An absolute must for all cat and animal lovers. Guaranteed to give you joy and laughter than almost any other present you can choose.

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# Love, sex, parents and being Jewish... The things that Anne was really frank about

Marianne Macdonald  
Media Correspondent

The public is to be given its first chance to read the unedited version of Anne Frank's diary in a move by her cousin to halt her "canonisation" in the eyes of the world.

The definitive new translation restoring her most outspoken remarks and diary entries — censored by Anne's father, Otto Frank, before it was published in 1947 — will be printed by Viking in the UK next February.

The unexpurgated version, previously only available in a critical edition studied by footnotes and read by academics, is 30 per cent longer than the old edition which has sold more than 25 million copies worldwide.

It reveals Anne's frank comments about her family's helpers in hiding, thoughts on her burgeoning sexuality, and angriest outbursts against her fellow residents in the "Secret Annex".

Buddy Elias, 71, Anne's cousin and the president of Basle-based Anne Frank Foundation, told *The Independent* that the public should know the truth about the Jewish teenager forced to hide for two years in the annex to an Amsterdam warehouse during the Second World War.

"I'm sure they will gain a different impression of Anne," he said of the new edition. "It's really her. It shows her in a true light, not as a saint, but as a girl like every other girl. She was

nothing, actually, people try to make a saint out of her and glorify her. That she was not. She was an ordinary, normal girl with a talent for writing."

It was 9 July 1942 when the 13-year-old Anne went into hiding with her parents and older sister, Margot, the van Pels family, father, mother and son, Peter — called the van Daans by Anne — and Fritz Pfeffer, an irritable dentist whom Anne christened Alfred Dussel.

The new *Diary* presents a less forgiving author. "Father has a friend, a man in his mid-seventies, who's sick, poor and deaf as a post. At his side, like a useless appendage, is his wife, 27 years younger and equally poor, whose arms and legs are loaded with real and fake bracelets and rings," she wrote in a restored entry for September 1942.

The following month she remarked irritably: "Everybody teased me quite a bit yesterday because I lay down on the bed. 'Shocking' and other remarks. I'm sick of it. Silly of course. I'd never want to sleep with Mr van Daan the way they mean."

A November entry about her impending period was seen as too shocking to print in the 1940s. "PS. I forgot to mention the important news that I'm probably going to get my period soon. I can tell because I keep finding a whitish smear in my panties."

In January 1943, Anne reported a confidential chat with Peter van Pels, with whom she was falling in love. "Peter, the



Diary uncensored: A family photograph of Anne Frank. Right: Pages from her handwritten account, and the annex in Amsterdam where she hid from the Nazis for two years

German word *Gschlechtchen* means that one does it. But then the male and female ones have different names. 'I know that.' The female one is a vagina, that I know, but I don't know what it's called in males. 'Hmim.' 'Oh, well,' I said. 'How are we supposed to know these words?'

The following month she wrote about another talk with Peter. "He said he'd never be able to feel like a Christian, but that after the war he'd make sure nobody knew he was Jewish. I felt a momentary pang. It's such a shame he still has

ter all, it's nothing to do with the marriage itself, does it?" Her frank remarks about her body were also seen as too shocking. "Until I was 11 or 12, I didn't realise there was a second set of labia on the inside [of the vagina], though you couldn't see them. What's even funnier is that I thought urine came out of the clitoris. I asked Mother one time what that little bump was, and she said she didn't know. She can really play dumb when she wants to!"

By April she had become closer to Peter. "I told him all about girls, without hesitating

to discuss the most intimate matters. I found it rather amusing that he thought the opening in a woman's body was simply left out of illustrations. He couldn't imagine it was actually located between a woman's legs. The evening ended with a mutual kiss, near the mouth."

Miep Gies, one of the Dutch women who brought food and comfort to the Franks throughout their imprisonment, is mentioned in a censored entry which illustrates the painful, wary atmosphere of the time.

"Miep came up one after

noon all flushed and asked Father straight out if we thought they too were infected with the current anti-Semitism."

"Father was stunned and quickly talked her out of the idea, but some of Miep's suspicion lingered on. They're doing more errands for us now and showing more of an interest in our troubles."

An entry in May 1944 was removed by Mr Frank because of the distress it might cause another helper, Bep Voskuijl, who died in 1983.

"Bep's engaged! This news isn't much of a surprise, though

Saturday, March 18, 1944

Darkest Kitty,  
I've told you more about myself and my feelings than I've ever told a living soul, so why shouldn't that include sex?

Parents, and people in general, are very peculiar when it comes to sex. Instead of telling their sons and daughters everything at the age of twelve, they send the children out of the room the moment the subject arises and leave them to find out everything on their own. Later on, when parents notice that their children have, somehow, come by their information, they assume they know more (or less) than they actually do. So why don't they try to make amends by asking them what's what?

A major stumbling block for the adults — though in my opinion it's no more than a pebble — is that they're afraid their children will no longer look upon marriage as sacred and pure once they realise that, in most cases, this purity is a lot of nonsense. As far as I'm concerned, it's not wrong for a man to bring a little experience to a marriage. After all, it has nothing to do with the marriage itself, does it?

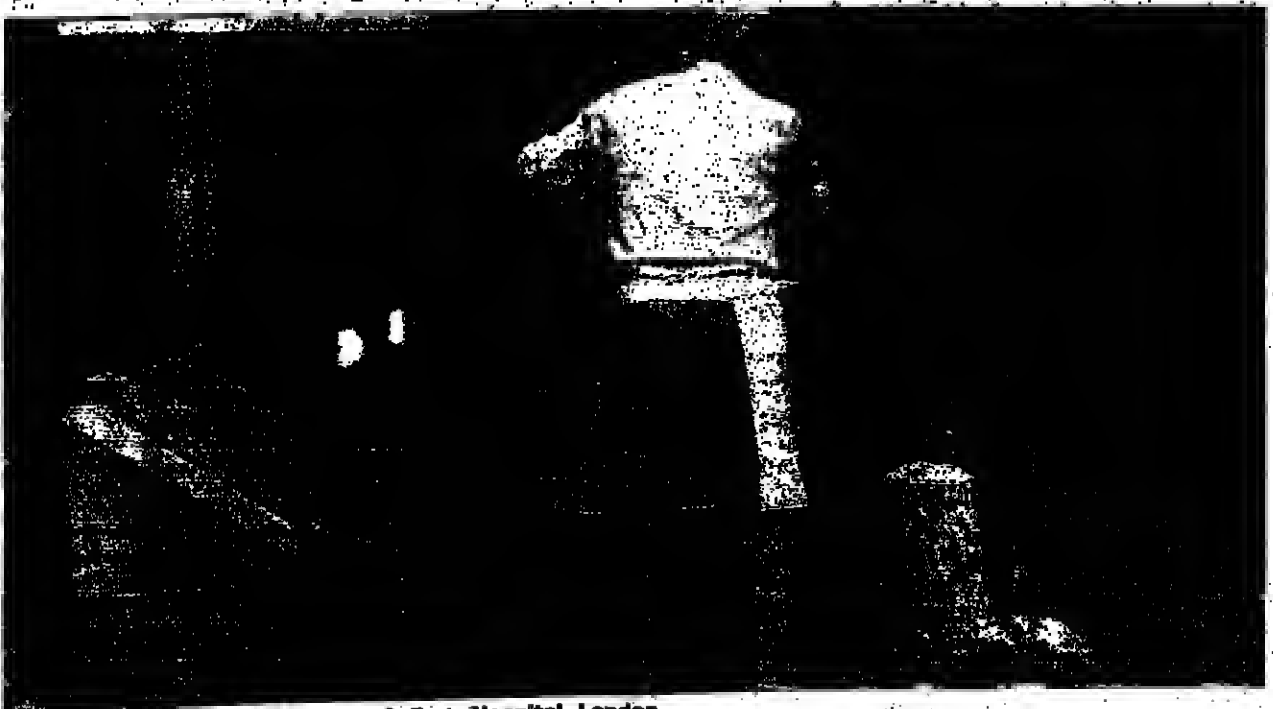


Diary uncensored: A family photograph of Anne Frank. Right: Pages from her handwritten account, and the annex in Amsterdam where she hid from the Nazis for two years

none of us are particularly pleased, Bepus may be a nice, steady, athletic young man, but Bep doesn't love him, and to me that's enough reason to advise her against marrying him."

The diary stops abruptly on 1 August 1944. Three days later, the SS invaded Anne's sanctuary. Its residents were taken on the last transport from the transit camp of Westerbork to Auschwitz.

Anne died there in February or March 1945. The only survivor was Mr Frank, who died in 1980 after devoting his life to his daughter's memory.



The goods entrance at University College Hospital, London

## Hospital kitchen that is the capital's cultural epicentre

David Lister  
Arts News Editor

Along a corridor, behind the bins is London's cultural heartland.

From these kitchens at University College Hospital, a stone's throw from London's West End, tickets have been distributed by a chef, Frank Raulston, for symphonic concerts, opera, Shakespeare and blockbuster musicals.

When *The Independent* telephoned the kitchens at University College Hospital and asked for Mr Raulston, the person who answered the phone said: "He's not here. Are you after tickets?"

But speaking from his home yesterday Mr Raulston, who was reluctant to be interviewed and refused to be photographed, said: "I don't make any money out of this. What I do get is the pleasure of going to concerts. Sponsors of concerts do not want to sit in their boxes and look down on empty seats so the organisations use me and others like me to fill up the halls. They have used me for 12 years because I guarantee hums on seats. Never say that it's impossible for one person to fill up a theatre."

"I deal with about five hospitals and give tickets to social clubs to distribute. The orchestras have to give them to

someone and ours are put down as a deserving cause. Doing this has turned me into a music fan. But I have to sit through a lot of crap as well."

For some of this modern stuff that the Arts Council insists on, they can't get people interested. When the CBSO came to London with Simon Rattle I had to paper the house."

A former official with one symphony orchestra said yesterday: "It's a fact of life that this chap in some hospital basement is getting hundreds and hundreds of tickets. We would give him tickets for every concert with a relatively unknown programme or relatively unknown conductor. Sometimes 30 per

cent of the house was filled in this way. We had doubts about it, but the competition did it so we had little choice."

The influx of tickets into UCH has become the talk of the hospital. One doctor said yesterday: "A lot of tickets seem to come in. We are continually being offered seats for concerts and for opera."

A spokesman for University College Hospital said yesterday: "It seems that we just get batches of complimentary tickets. As they become available they are sent through to our hospital volunteers organisation and to our social club. They are free. We are not aware of any money changing hands."

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## news

# Teachers demand banning of 60 children

FRAN ABRAMS  
Education Correspondent

Staff at a school in West Yorkshire are calling for up to 60 of their pupils to be excluded because they say they are out of control. The teachers at the 600-pupil Ridings School in Halifax are voting on possible strike action if the local authority does not step in.

The Ridings was at the centre of a similar argument last month over one of its pupils, Sarah Walker, 13. Staff threat-

ened to strike when she was returned to lessons after being excluded for violence towards a teacher and another pupil.

The head's decision was overturned by an appeals committee but her parents eventually agreed to withdraw her as staff were on the brink of walking out.

Now 31 members of the National Association of Schoolmasters' Union of Women Teachers, who form the great majority of the staff, are threatening action over what they say is a complete breakdown of

discipline. Last night both the head, Karen Stansfield, and her deputy were said to have resigned and were expected to go at the end of term.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT, would not comment on the number of pupils he wanted to see excluded from the school, but said that if it were necessary to remove 60 to impose proper discipline, it should be done.

Philip Lawrence, the murdered Lodon head teacher, had had to exclude 60 pupils in

two years from St George's school in Maida Vale, London, he said. "Why not? If it is good enough for Philip Lawrence it is good enough for elsewhere," he added. "There is a very serious disciplinary situation at this school, and we want the local authority to go in there and resolve it. There are a whole raft of measures which want putting in place."

Mr de Gruchy said he hoped his members would not be forced into all-out strike action but that employment laws made

it necessary to ballot them now in order to be able to take action from the end of the month.

A meeting a week ago with the school's governors had not led to an agreement, he said, and local newspapers in Calderdale had since started reporting the story.

Last night the chair of governors at the school, Reverend Stan Brown, said there was a problem with disruptive behaviour at the school, but that he was disappointed by the stance taken by the teachers.

"I think we have got our fair share of disruptive pupils but it is very unfair that it is being portrayed as though all our kids have got problems," he said. "I am very disappointed that the union are taking this line at this time. We have negotiated with the local authority and resources are being put into the school."

The dispute follows a number of high-profile cases in which members of the NASUWT and other teaching unions have threatened to

strike over disruptive pupils.

In April staff at Glaisdale Comprehensive in Nottingham threatened action after the parents of Richard Whiting, 13, appealed successfully against his expulsion. A deal was finally struck under which the boy was taught partly in isolation and partly in a special unit.

Last month the parents of more than 30 children kept them away from Manton junior school in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, in protest at the governors' refusal to let their head

teacher expel Matthew Wilson, 10. It also emerged last month that Andrew Eaton, seven, had been awarded legal aid to mount a High Court challenge to his expulsion from Wellacre infants' school in Trafford, Greater Manchester.

School exclusions have been increasing rapidly over the past few years, but while some people attribute the problem to rising disciplinary problems, others say that pressure on teachers has made them less tolerant of difficult pupils.

## Ex-Tory MP makes Labour his latest stop

Anthony Bevins  
Political Editor

The recent spate of political defections was capped yesterday by the former Tory MP Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler, who announced his conversion to Labour from the Liberal Democrats.

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler was the only Conservative MP to defect to the Social Democrats in 1981, when 25 Labour MPs helped to form the breakaway party grouping.

He subsequently lost his Norfolk North West seat to the Tories in the 1983 general election, who held it on a reduced majority of just over 3,000 votes.

At the last election, he stood as the Liberal Democrat candidate in Norfolk South, which the Tories held with Mr Brocklebank-Fowler trailing more than 17,000 votes behind.



Brocklebank-Fowler: Con, SDP, Lib Dem, now new Lab

But, having belonged to three parties over the past 15 years, Mr Brocklebank-Fowler yesterday told *The Independent* that it was time for another move - to Tony Blair's new Labour Party. "Under Tony Blair's leadership, the Labour Party has the vision to implement the reforms necessary to secure a prosperous future, into the millennium, for all our people," he said.

"My decision to join the Labour Party is prompted by Tony Blair's determination to pursue constitutional reform, efficient economic management, and fairer social provision which alone can restore One Nation."

Mr Brocklebank-Fowler was particularly scathing about the Conservatives last night, saying: "Their divisions over Europe and the scandalous behaviour of ministers are too sickening for words. Another Conservative government would be a dreadful blow for democracy."

Having been a parliamentary candidate for 30 years, and having served as an MP for 13 years, Mr Brocklebank-Fowler said he had no wish to stand again, but he would be working for Labour in his old constituency of Norfolk North-West, which had a Tory majority of 11,564 votes over Labour at the last election.

He added: "Labour has got to appeal to the social democratic centre and, under Tony Blair, that is what it is doing."

Why I have joined Labour

## Father of Clare Short's baby speaks of pain over adoption



Happy family: Andrew and Aileen Moss, with their sons Edward, aged eight, and three-year-old Benjamin. Mr Moss was worried how the boys would react Photographs: Brian Harris

“There wasn’t a day when I didn’t ask myself: How could you give your son away?”

Steve Boggan  
Chief Reporter

Last Thursday, news broke in *The Independent* of Clare Short's reunion with the son she gave up for adoption 31 years ago. The joy of that moment was shared by Andrew Moss, the boy's father, but it meant too, that he and his family were besieged by the media.

He asked *The Independent* to shield his family from the unwanted attention for a few days. While we did he told us his own story. This is it.

As baggage goes, it couldn't have been heavier. For Andrew Moss, it weighed heavy indeed, and it hung around his neck for more than 20 years.

It was no more than a holdall, but its contents dragged down his life, his moods; it distorted the person he planned to be and destroyed the future he believed he had.

It contained 12 nappies and a baby bath belonging to his son before, after six weeks, he gave him away. This was the baby that was presented last week as Clare Short's long-lost son, a son who was secretly mourned over each day by his mother and father.

On Saturday, that baby, now 31-year-old Toby Graham, met Andrew Moss for only the second time - a father and son reunion that Mr Moss believed would never happen.

The two met at Lancaster railway station and spent the morning together before travelling to a hotel where Toby, a City lawyer, met his half-brothers, Edward, eight, and Benjamin, three, for the first time.

They formed a bond almost immediately, to the relief of Mr Moss, 54, and his wife of 17 years, Aileen, 47. But there was clearly much for Mr Moss to deal with.

"I put Toby's things - the nappies and the bath - in a bag and I kept them with me for over 20 years. I couldn't throw them away," he said.

"There wasn't a day that went by that I didn't ask myself, 'How could you do that? How

could you give your son away?'"

Mr Moss was 23 and Ms Short was 18 when, at Keele University, she became pregnant. They left the university and moved to Leeds where Ms Short took a year out while Mr Moss studied philosophy.

"We were both surviving on only my grant and we were living in these disgusting digs in Chapeltown," said Mr Moss.

"Rediscovering Toby has meant so much to both of us. He is a wonderful man, so like his father, and we are both very proud of him."



Photo opportunity: Clare Short and her son Toby Graham meeting the press in London last week

vain and selfish. I remember the start of day we gave up the baby. We were dumb. Silent. I have asked myself a million times how I could have done it but I just can't answer the question. As I say, I can remember the start of the day, but I can't remember the end of it."

Four weeks ago Mr Moss took a call from Ms Short, to whom he was married for seven years during the 1960s, telling him that Toby - originally named Benjamin - had made contact. But in the intervening years, there had been anguish

and depression and an overriding sense of guilt.

Mrs Moss explained: "I knew just after I met Andrew that there was this great thing weighing him down."

"He is a good person but he spent so much time punishing himself. He kept the baby's things and couldn't throw them out until a few years ago when I told him to let them go."

"Rediscovering Toby has meant so much to both of us. He is a wonderful man, so like his father, and we are both very proud of him."

Toby was brought up by John Graham, a company director, and his wife, Maureen, in Cheshire.

"Toby is such a lovely boy," said Mr Moss. "We met for the first time at York station. We hadn't arranged a specific place and at first I thought he hadn't turned up, so I called Aileen, and then Toby thought I hadn't turned up, so he called her, and eventually we got together."

"We walked and talked and popped into the Three Horse-shoes in Great Ouseburn for a pint and I just wanted to hold his hand. I am incredibly proud of him and I just want to do so much for him. Love is not finite; it is infinitely divisible and I have so much for him."

"He is a real credit to Mr and Mrs Graham. I can't thank them enough for what they have done. It sounds as though they were wonderful parents."

There is gratitude, too, for Toby's wife, Annie, and excitement over his two daughters, Alice, aged two, and Sophie, one.

"I have seen pictures of them and they look wonderful," said Mr Moss. "I am looking forward to meeting them, but it all has to be done patiently."

Mr Moss knows that too much must not be attempted too soon and there is an anxiety that people's feelings should not be trodden upon. But, gradually, things are working out.

"I was a little worried about how my boys would react when I introduced them to Toby," said Mr Moss. "But Edward just stepped forward and gave him a great big hug."

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CH2

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من الأرض

# How planners are to demolish one of our most hated buildings and make another environmental bungle



Faulty towers: The brutalist buildings (left) housing the Departments of Environment and Transport, and how the area will look if Gabriele Tagliaventi's design goes ahead - with its controversial car park. Photograph: Philip Meech

**Nicholas Schoon**

The number of car parking spaces on a key Government site in central London would quadruple to over 1,000 if the design which won a major architectural competition yesterday is built.

Environmental campaigners were outraged at the notion of multiplying parking space in the heart of congested Westminster borough - especially since the Secretary of State for the Environment, John Gummer, says he is determined the huge new development at Marsham Street will improve the quality of the local environment.

Demolition of the three brutalist and much hated high rise towers which now house the Departments of Environment and Transport is due to start next Spring. Yesterday Mr Gummer announced that a passionately pro-European Italian architect had won the competition for a masterplan for the two hectare site, one of the most important in central London.

But Gabriele Tagliaventi's winning entry for offices, shops and houses includes space for 1,200 cars in its basements - compared to the 300 spaces within the existing, 25-year-old building. Yet Government planning policies now aim to encourage people to use public transport in city centres.

Roger Higman, transport campaigner with the environ-

mental pressure group Friends of the Earth, said: "Ministers have got to lead from the front. This has to be rethought very, very quickly."

Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust, said: "While we support the Government's overall concept for that site, the car parking figures in the winning entry need to be rethought. It's a lot of space."

Mr Tagliaventi's design includes a swimming pool and cinema. There will be a large central square, streets crisscrossing the site (none do at present) and 10 separate blocks up to eight stories high.

Mr Gummer said the Marsham Street redevelopment was "the first major contribution by a Government in 50 years to the betterment of London. It will change the whole tone of the area."

Mr Tagliaventi's winning design, which earned him £25,000, was picked by a 12 person panel which included Deputy Prime Minister, Michael Heseltine, Mr Gummer, the modernist architect, Will Alsop, and the traditionalist, Leon Krier, who advises Prince Charles.

The buildings in the design look classical, as do those in most of the competition's top 10 entries. But Mr Gummer said what had won was the overall design, not the architectural style. There will be a further competition to design the individual buildings and some of the winners may be modernist.

Mr Tagliaventi, 36, said his firm of eight architects from Bologna wanted to specialise in projects which reflected closer European union. "I love this idea," he added.

He had been inspired by the works of the Regency architect and town planner, John Nash. His design set out to let people live and work in the same place, to fit in with the surrounding

buildings, connect nearby streets "and to look natural, so that people looking at it think it was done in the past".

The Government still has to decide whether it will take any

office space in the new development, and whether it will sell the entire site off to a developer or maintain some ownership.

The Departments of Transport and Environment, which em-

ploy far fewer people than 25 years ago, have already started moving out.

A Department of the Environment spokesman said the number of car parking spaces

had yet to be decided, but they would conform with Westminster City Council's codes which were aimed at clamping down on the growth in car parking spaces in central London.



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Different opinions: John Ware (left) attacked Esther Rantzen's investigation of a London hospital

## Rantzen is cleared of twisting fact

Esther Rantzen was cleared yesterday of "twisting the facts" in an investigation of a south London hospital's treatment of a seriously disabled patient.

While a BBC inquiry found major errors in her account of Ian Parker's treatment at the British Home and Hospital for Incurables, her "journalistic integrity was not in doubt."

And the inquiry reprimanded John Ware, a freelance who has produced respected work for *Paranormal* and *Rough Justice*, for making his criticism of the programme in a *Sunday Telegraph* article last August.

Mr Ware, who himself has a friend at the hospital for brain-injured patients, said the programme on advocacy had "twisted the facts" and used a hidden camera in the hospital without justification.

The BBC's own complaints unit said of The Rantzen Report: "The programme makers drew reasonable conclusions from the evidence available to them and their journalistic integrity is not in doubt."

In the light of later evidence made available to the inquiry, it appears that the programme contained some errors. Though these were minor in themselves, they involved a degree of unfairness to the hospital. This didn't invalidate, however, the programme's overall argument on the topic of advocacy.

A BBC spokesman said yesterday: "John Ware has been told both verbally and in writing that he is contractually bound to clear all articles for the press about broadcasting and the BBC. He has been reprimanded for raising the issue as he did."

Viewers' complaints about The Rantzen Report which followed Ware's article will be dealt with in the BBC's quarterly complaints bulletin.

Ms Rantzen said she was "confused" by the BBC statement which seemed to stop short of fully vindicating The Rantzen Report. The programme had thoroughly checked the claims of patient Ian Parker's mother Janet that he lacked stimulation, she said.

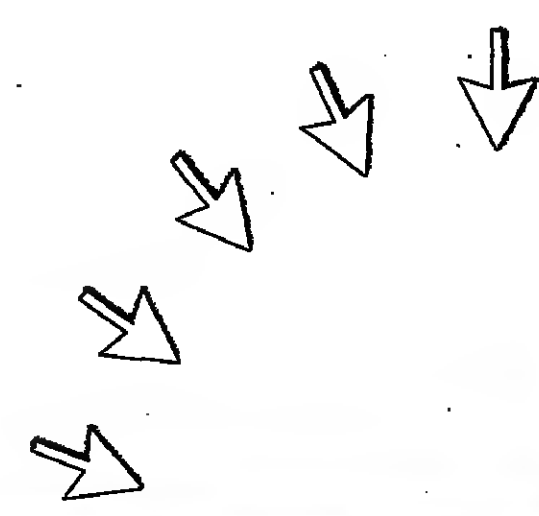
They had sought the help of a professional independent assessor and spoken to five health professionals, she said.

"As far as I am concerned, we are vindicated. Our journalism is accurate," she said. "If the BBC has taken a different view, then they haven't told me."

Ms Rantzen has just signed a new two-year contract with BBC TV. The chat show *Esther*, now going out twice a week, will become a five-days-a-week show next year.

She will host *Childwatch Plus* Ten, a 10th anniversary programme about one of Ms Rantzen's most famous and long-lived campaigns to counter child abuse, on 30 October.

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# Teachers savage reading report

Fran Abrams  
Education Correspondent

Tensions between schools' inspectors and the education establishment worsened as a critical Ofsted report on reading standards was dismissed by academics as "flawed".

London University's Institute of Education has accused the inspectors of "cherry picking" evidence to show inner-city primary schools in a bad light. The controversial chief inspector of schools, Chris Woodhead, says he fails even to understand why such allegations are being made.

The institute has published a stinging response to a survey by the schools inspection body, which said that four out of ten pupils were at least two years behind with their reading. A row broke out when the work was published last May because the local authorities involved said the final report had been rewritten to emphasise its negative side.

According to the institute's director, Professor Peter Mortimore, the evidence it contained was used unfairly to attack teachers and to call for the use of more formal methods such as whole-class teaching and phonics.

His analysis, written with Professor Harvey Goldstein, says that each of the 45 schools studied was visited for one day only, and that children were inappropriate and out-of-date reading tests. It adds that the schools in the study, all of which were in the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Islington and Southwark, were not typical and that the report should not have used them to draw general conclusions.

The boroughs were some of the poorest in the country, it says, and only 45 per cent of the pupils in them were white. More than half were receiving free school meals, many did not speak English as a first language

and turnover of both pupils and staff were high.

Professor Mortimore said yesterday that work by inspectors should be subject to peer review. He and Professor Goldstein had been "astounded" at the report's conclusions. "When we looked at the sample we saw it was ridiculous to draw a national picture from this."

The Ofsted report was highly critical of both teachers and teaching methods. It said only one-quarter of lessons were well taught and that the gap in pupils' performances was "serious and unacceptable".

Mr Woodhead said last night that he was "confused" by Professor Mortimore's criticisms. "We stand absolutely by our findings. The National Foundation for Educational Research administered the reading tests, the local authority inspectors sat with our own HMI and came to joint judgements on the teaching quality," he said.

## Thirty years on, Aberfan remembers its day of darkness



Last we forget: David George, with his grandson, Marc, collect water yesterday for flowers to put on the grave of his daughter, Christine, who died aged 10, when a slag mountain crushed Pantglas primary school in Aberfan, killing 116 children and 28 adults. Photograph: Rob Stratton

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M03 134 NG

## Wallace and Gromit stage their comeback

David Usborne  
New York

The city-wide hunt for a pair of Britons who vanished in New York on Saturday soon after touching down from London was called off yesterday after they were discovered by a Yellow Cab driver and returned to their hotel.

The pair, identified only as Wallace and Gromit, mistakenly climbed into the boot of a taxi for their ride into Manhattan. It appears that on arrival neither the driver nor the couple's chaperon for the visit, the animated-film director, Nick Park, remembered to let them out.

Even by the standards of New York, the welcome for Wallace and Gromit was inhospitable in the extreme. They were trapped in the taxi boot for 36 hours, suffering from the bumps and bounces of the Big Apple's potholes, until their discovery yesterday morning.

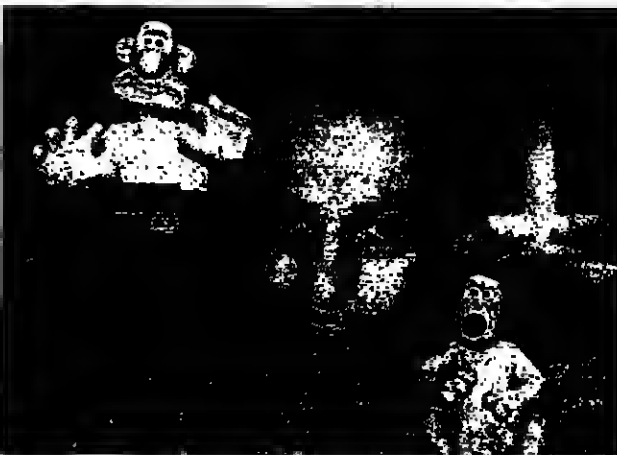
Police could not comment on what induced them to take to the trunk, as car boots are described here, in the first place. Unconfirmed reports suggested, however, that Wallace and Gromit have several unusual

quirks: it was rumoured that they were only six inches high, are made of clay and have illusions of Hollywood stardom.

Particularly puzzling, however, are rumours that Wallace, a toothy-looking man with a taste for Wensleydale, and Gromit, who may be a dog, were also in possession of a motorcycle and sidecar. It is believed they were too frightened to make the journey themselves into Manhattan.

Considerable relief was expressed by Mr Park, who also offered explanations regarding Hollywood and suggested his and his friends were in New York to promote their latest venture: a US version of a Wallace and Gromit video entitled *The Close Shave*. A Close Shave indeed and not at all a Grand Day Out. Publicity for the pair is now unlikely to be a problem, because the search for became hot news on the city's radio airwaves all weekend.

The two Britons were speeding yesterday recovering from their traumatic episode, a publicist said. "They are a bit battered." The heroic taxi-driver, meanwhile, turned down the offer of a \$500 reward.



Fest of clay: Nick Park with Wallace and Gromit, who were liberated from the boot of a Yellow Cab

## DAILY POEM

Archy and Mehitabel:  
archy figures out aunt prudence

By Don Marquis

i know why  
aunt prudence hecklebury  
does not like me  
period  
it came to me  
just now  
exclamation point  
it is because  
i have six  
legs  
exclamation point  
please ask her if  
this is not so  
interrogation point  
if she disapproves  
of me for that  
reason what  
are her views  
with regard to  
the octopus  
question mark  
and i shudder to  
think of what  
she must think  
when she sees  
a centipede  
period

archy

Don Marquis (1878-1937) was considered Mark Twain's successor as America's foremost literary wit. He spent his working life as a newspaper columnist, first for the *New York Sun* and later for the *Herald Tribune*, but for nearly 30 years spun out the tales of Archy and Mehitabel - part social commentary, part musing on existence - to the delight of his readers. Bloodaxe publishes archyology: the lost tales of archy and mehitabel this month at £7.95.

من الأصيل





Wine and breeze: The Rev Robert Middlewick prepares to bless part of this year's English wine harvest at Lamberhurst Vineyard, near Tunbridge Wells, Kent. The growers expect that the 1996 harvest will be the best for several years. Some unblessed grapes were picked last weekend  
Photograph: Edward Webb

# Stone of Scone will rest in Edinburgh

Charlie Bain

The Government unveiled plans yesterday to move the Stone of Scone north of the border to Edinburgh Castle, ending its 700-year residence at Westminster Abbey.

Scottish Secretary Michael Forsyth said the Queen had agreed that the stone should be placed in the Crown Room at the castle which was ideal because of its accessibility, security and "appropriate historic links".

The relic - also known as the Stone of Destiny - will arrive at the castle on St Andrew's Day in November but will return to Westminster Abbey for future coronations where it has been used in the crowning of some 30 British monarchs.

The Stone is the most ancient and potent symbol of the Scottish Kings and has been subject to countless campaigns in the past demanding its return. It was originally used as a coronation throne by the Irish Kings of Tara and taken to Scotland when the Irish invaded the land of the Picts in the ninth century.

However there was disappointment last night among those whose bids to receive the stone were unsuccessful. There were over 17 suggested locations, including Dunfermline and Arbroath abbeys, as well as the stone's original resting place at Scone in Perth.

The Earl of Mansfield, whose family have lived at Scone Palace for 400 years, was one of several thousand people who campaigned for it to be returned there.

His spokesman, Commander Andrew Robinson, said: "There is no historical link between Edinburgh and the stone. Edinburgh did not even exist as a village when the stone went south, let alone have a castle. There is no historic connection."

# Foetuses 'can feel pain' at six weeks

Liz Hunt

Health Editor

A foetus should be given painkilling drugs and adequate anaesthesia prior to surgery performed on it while it is still in the womb, according to a report which says that a foetus may feel pain as early as six weeks.

A review of evidence for and against foetal sentience, concludes that doctors must "err on the side of caution," and protect a foetus from potentially painful procedures at the earliest stages of development.

This would include abortion and raises the possibility of painkillers being administered specifically for the foetus, especially during late abortions.

The report, which recommends that all pregnant women are told of the most up-to-date scientific data on foetal sentience and calls for new laws to protect the unborn child, was immediately attacked by pro-choice groups as being fundamentally anti-abortion and designed to make women considering a termination feel guilty. However, its findings have been described as "generally well balanced" by *New Scientist* magazine, which was given an advance copy to review.

The Commission of Inquiry into Foetal Sentience which published its report yesterday, was set up by Care, a Christian education charity, in response to growing public concern about the capability of the foetus to experience pain or suffering. It took evidence from internationally renowned scientists, neurologists, and doctors and reviewed more than 70 scientific papers and reports.

Its main finding is that while it is not possible to say exactly when a foetus may feel pain, there are sensory receptors present over almost all its body surface by 14 weeks' gestation, and all the structures necessary for the perception of pain are in place by 26 weeks. The Commission says that some experts say the ability to feel pain may occur from 13 weeks while others say a foetus may feel pain from as early as six weeks.

Kypros Nicolaides, Professor of Foetal Medicine at King's College Hospital, London, and the doctor who cared for Mandy Allwood who was pregnant with eight babies, told the Commission that because of uncertainty the foetus should be treated as if it felt pain from the first trimester of pregnancy.

Dr John Wyatt, a consultant paediatrician at University College London Hospitals, and a member of the Commission, said that there had been a "conspiracy of silence" over the issue of foetal sentience because scientists were concerned that their views would be misused by pro- and anti-abortionists.

Dr Wyatt said it was the duty of scientists to emphasise what they did not know and the duty of doctors to err on the side of caution. "This kind of paranoia and impugning of the motives of people who want to ask honest questions must stop."

Newborn babies were, until a decade ago, believed incapable of feeling pain and were subjected to painful medical interventions without analgesia. Following evidence that neonates experienced a surge of stress hormones indicative of pain during these procedures, doctors now routinely use painkillers.

Dr Wyatt said foetal surgery, such as intrauterine transfusions, draining of blocked kidneys and removal of fluid on the brain, were currently carried out without analgesia, although there was evidence that the foetus suffered stress. The Care report follows the all-party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group which concluded that a human foetus experiences pain from the 10th week of its existence.

■ *Human Sentience before Birth*, from Care, 33 Romney Street, London SW1P 3RP.



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## news

## From fasting to freedom: Gandhi scribblings set to fetch £1m

Marianne Macdonald

Handwritten papers belonging to Mahatma Gandhi, the Indian leader, have come to light for the first time since his assassination nearly 50 years ago.

The 70 speeches, articles and draft letters document the last momentous months of the life of the man who, more than any other, helped to secure Indian independence. They are expected to fetch up to £800,000 at auction. Their whereabouts had been unknown until they resurfaced at Phillips after being in the possession of one of Gandhi's secretaries for almost five decades.

The auction house describes the collection — much of it scribbled in English on the back of envelopes, circulars and recycled letters — as ranking with the great presidential archives and the Churchill papers.

Felix Pryor, Phillips' manuscript consultant, said yesterday: "Any single

document from this archive, were it to have appeared on its own, would have been considered exceptional." Among the papers to be sold on 14 November is a speech elaborating Gandhi's motives for his "last fast", which began on 13 January

1948, and was considered by many to be the supreme act of his life.

Gandhi, who vowed not to eat until peace was restored to Delhi, wrote: "At once I saw that I had to be in Delhi and do or die... No man, if he is pure, has anything more

precious to give than his life." Also under the hammer is the prologue to Gandhi's will and a draft letter to Lord Mountbatten, written shortly before independence, in which he expresses his dismay at the viceroy's support of the partition of India.

"I pointed to the initial mistake of the British being party to splitting India into two. It is not possible to undo the mistake... [But] the very admirable doctrine of fair play... demands that I do not help the mistaken party to fancy that the mistake was no mistake."

Prophetically, a draft speech by the man who was assassinated in New Delhi on 30 January 1948 also addresses the fear that the British remaining in India would be murdered.

"All promise of protection by authority in isolated places is vain — it simply cannot be done, no matter how efficient the military and police machine may be, which, it must be admitted, it is not."

Proceeds of the sale will go to a Hindu charitable foundation.



Hunger for liberty: Mahatma Gandhi during a fast in New Delhi, not long before he was assassinated

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## Protest as paedophile envoy keeps his pension

Colin Brown  
Chief Political Correspondent

Robert Coghlan, the diplomat jailed for three years for importing child pornography through the diplomatic bag, will not lose his pension rights despite being sacked by the Foreign Office.

The decision by the Foreign Office not to remove the pension rights from Coghlan was attacked as "weak" by Harry Cohen, the Labour MP for Leyton, who also demanded the tightening up of vetting procedures so diplomats to stop other paedophiles being employed by the Government.

bag. All diplomats are warned that prohibited items cannot be taken by diplomatic bag, which can include containers covered by diplomatic privilege but previously were not specifically told to exclude pornography.

"We are not aware of the detailed contents of Mr Coghlan's videos impounded by HM Customs and Excise," Mr Hanley told Mr Cohen. "The material is held by HM Customs and Excise pending destruction."

There would be no changes in the vetting procedures although they had allowed a man of Coghlan's tastes into the diplomatic service, the minister



Jailed: Robert Coghlan used the diplomatic bag

Jeremy Hanley, a Foreign Office minister, said in a letter to Mr Cohen that the Foreign Office had given "careful consideration" to the question of stripping the diplomat of his pension.

"We have concluded that, under the rules of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme, his activities do not constitute grounds for depriving him of his pension," Mr Hanley said. The pension will be based on Coghlan's final salary and years of service at the time of his dismissal and will remain frozen until he reaches the age of 60.

Coghlan, 54, was sacked after being sentenced for importing from Japan to Britain 109 pornographic videos involving children, en route to another posting, using the diplomatic bag.

Mr Hanley said that in the light of the Coghlan affair, the rules for transporting personal effects are to be changed to include pornography among the list of illustrative items which are prohibited from being carried in the diplomatic

said. "The vetting process cannot claim to be infallible and it relies to a large extent on an individual's co-operation and honesty, supported by the watchfulness of managers and colleagues, rather than on the sort of in-depth and ongoing investigation you may have in mind."

"Such investigation would inevitably be very intrusive and therefore unacceptable in terms of the liberty of the individual and invidious if applied only to members of the Diplomatic Service."

Mr Cohen is planning to protest over the issue in the Commons. He said: "This man has shamed Britain abroad but many people have lost their pensions for much lesser offences. By similar logic, perhaps the Foreign Office should be paying the spy George Blake his pension."

"They've added pornography to the list of prohibited items for transporting but to the list of purposes for security vetting. They should tighten up the security vetting."

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# Belgians lost in a moral wasteland



Mr Dehaene meeting Sabine Dardenne (centre) and Laetitia Delhez, rescued in August from a house owned by Dutroux

Photograph: Reuters

Sarah Helm  
Brussels

Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Belgian Prime Minister, yesterday rejected claims that Sunday's mass protest in Brussels signalled a far-reaching crisis of confidence in the state's institutions.

Speaking after the march through Brussels, when Belgians expressed frustration at the failure of the justice system over the Dutroux child sex scandal, Mr Dehaene insisted that public disillusionment with the political class is common to all countries.

"In any country you have moments when emotional problems ignite energy and allow problems to be attacked faster," he said in an interview with the BBC. "It is part of the political process."

However, as sporadic protests continued throughout Belgium yesterday, Mr Dehaene's coalition government remained under enormous

pressure to produce action rather than words.

The Prime Minister has promised to reform the justice system by ending political appointment of judges.

Under the system, parties have the right to nominate a certain number of judges. Politicisation of the judiciary has increased suspicion that the failure to tackle the Dutroux paedophile case is part of a wider political cover-up.

Despite Mr Dehaene's offer to tackle the problem, he has so far failed to explain how the reforms might work. Most observers are sceptical about the ability of his government to see them through.

Strong words at the weekend from King Albert added to the pressure on the government to find some way of reassuring the public.

The King called for every aspect of the affair to be re-examined in detail and in the open. He said that the tragedy of

the child deaths and abductions must "be the occasion of a profound change in our country".

Over the next few weeks the government faces the prospect of more evidence of political corruption emerging as investigations continue into a number of related cases.

The inquiry into the case of Marc Dutroux, the man charged with running a child sex-ring, must now be set back on track following the dismissal of the chief investigating magistrate, which sparked Sunday's protests.

The case has already led to the arrest of several police officers. At the same time, the government is certain to face new pressure to explain the possible links between the Dutroux case and inquiries into the death of André Cool, the former deputy prime minister shot in a mafia-style killing in 1991.

Other high-level corruption inquiries are also continuing.

## Scandals fuel the fires of separatism

Sarah Helm  
Brussels  
Mary Dejevsky  
Paris

The wave of scandals in Belgium has triggered fresh moves towards separation between the country's feuding French- and Dutch-speaking communities. It has evoked new support among some French-speakers for closer ties with France, but also put a question-mark over the future of Brussels, capital of the European Union.

A mass protest on Sunday over child abductions and murders may have shown new "solidarity" between the French-speaking Walloons, and the Dutch-speaking Flemings. But equally, the current strife may just hasten political moves towards greater separation.

Sparked by their fury over the failure of state institutions to respond to the current crisis, the Walloons and the Flemings have intensified their debate about how the country should pursue its federal agenda. Flemish extremists have exploited the fact that the latest scandals broke in Wallonia to promote their argument.

Outraged by the Flemish tactics, Francophone intellectuals have now chosen to step forward. Francophones must "mobilise," a group of "eminentes grises" proclaimed in a declaration published in *Le Soir* newspaper. To prevent Flanders dominating the march towards greater federalism, the Walloons must rise up and construct a future on their terms, it said.

The call has been taken up by prominent Francophone politicians, including Robert Collignon, the socialist minister-president of the Walloon regional government. In a speech earlier this month, he advocated a study of "all institutional scenarios" for the future of Wallonia. "We will intensify our relations with France, a country with which we share a language and culture," he said. "Are not Walloons closer to Paris than most French people?"

The idea of melding Wallonia with France has frequently surfaced since Belgium was founded in 1839. It was raised again with the first meeting five years ago of the Wallonian Movement for a Return to France and the appearance in elections last year of a group called "France". For their part, the French

have tended to regard Belgians as the butt of nationally reassuring jokes. In the last month or so, though, the joking has stopped. The Belgian crisis has revived a strand of French thinking that hankers after bringing Wallonia back into France, something that Napoleon tried (and failed) to do 200 years ago.

There are other historical echoes. This weekend, *Le Point* magazine said that a 1943 study commissioned by US President Franklin Roosevelt envisaged the creation of a "greater Wallonia" governed by France, which would have incorporated not just French-speaking Belgium, but also Luxembourg.

*Le Monde* devoted a whole page this month to considering those Belgians who have fallen for "Marianne". The author suggested that some French diplomats were sympathetic to the idea and held regular meetings with MWRP members.

But a break-up of Belgium would entail knotty complications: not all Walloons would be happy about being united with France; and then there are the German-speaking Belgians in the East of the country, who would not be happy about joining Germany or France but could not survive as a nation on their own.

A break-up of Belgium could also mean the break-up of Brussels, capital not only of the Belgian state but headquarters of the EU organisations. Brussels (inconveniently) is a largely French-speaking city geographically located in Flanders.

The Walloon declaration makes clear that greatest fear for the Francophones - and the greatest threat to Wallonia - is the Flemish claim to the city. The declaration says that Wallonia could be severed from Flanders, as long as the Flemish give up the national capital. The same group says that if Brussels is not to be the capital of Wallonia, it could become an "international city".

The suggestion for a "Wallo-Bruvellers" alliance has outraged Flemish leaders, who argue that Brussels is the capital of Flanders. It proves just how serious the separatist debate is becoming. "It may seem unrealistic for now, but the break up of Belgium could really happen. And Brussels would be our Jerusalem," said Francois Perrin, a prominent Francophone socialist.

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Global vision: Chancellor Helmut Kohl addresses the Christian Democrats' annual conference in Hanover yesterday

Photograph: Reuters

## Economic woes take shine off CDU gathering

Imre Karacs  
Hanover

Embroidered in a heated dispute with their coalition partners, Germany's Christian Democrats attempted to rouse themselves yesterday from their mid-term slumber with a pledge to reverse their country's economic decline.

Delegates to the CDU's annual conference in Hanover had gathered under the slogan "Action for the Future", and proceeded to dwell at length on their glorious past. Celebrating 14 years in power, Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party seemed in no mood to crow about the record unemployment and eroding competitiveness that are the fruits of its reign.

Mr Kohl set the scene with a lacklustre keynote speech peppered with the word "future" but virtually devoid of detail. Germany, he said, was losing in the world market because it punishes achievement with high taxes and rewards labour with inflated wages. "We cannot sidestep the advancing globalisation of the world's economy," he said.

He cited the price of one hour's work by a research engineer - DM135 (£57) in Germany - against DM99 in Britain, DM54 in Hungary and DM35 in India. "We must not be surprised, therefore, if research moves abroad at an ever growing pace."

On unemployment, which hit a post-Weimar high of 4 million this year, he offered little comfort, admitting for the first time that his promise to halve the figure by the year 2000 was unrealistic. The new target is two-thirds.

The main reason for the country's economic woes is a tax system which drives up the cost of labour. The CDU are committed to a fundamental overhaul by 1999, bringing the top rate down to perhaps as low as 35 per cent, but their endeavours keep coming up against the brick wall of economic reality.

After promising to reduce the "solidarity surcharge", tax earmarked for eastern Germany, by the beginning of next year, the government was forced to ditch the commitment last week because it could not afford it. The budget, strained by efforts to meet the Maastricht criteria for European monetary union, is depleted. Additional revenues can be raised only by raising taxes, which in turn would depress growth and reduce the government's tax income.

Therein lies Mr Kohl's dilemma: His junior coalition partners, the free-market Free Democrats, feel betrayed, and are whispering again about pulling the plug on the government. That will no doubt prove to be an idle threat, and the coalition will soldier on till elections in 1998. But the credibility gap between the Chancellor and the voters is widening. The opposition have caught up in the polls, and the time bomb of EMU is ticking away. Mr Kohl yesterday called on the coalition to close ranks, and urged his own party to rediscover its Christian faith. The party expressed its faith in him by re-electing him as chairman with 95.5 per cent of the vote, and adopting his proposal for affirmative action for women members.

## Kohl blinded by the canvas of life

Imre Karacs  
Hanover

What do you give to a leader beating all records for political longevity but one who has just delivered a speech remarkable only for its duration?

The answer, if you are a German Christian Democrat, is a hideous painting that is too large to hang above his fish tank.

Old King Kohl's gift from a grateful party, *The Brandenburg Gate* by Inge Schmidt, was held aloft by two of his subjects. Faces all around beamed. The Chancellor took one look, and turned his gaze back towards the cameras, his face frozen in an expression of wonder. What did they mean, those swirling colours, the ruins in the background, and those fuzzy human shapes leaping out of the canvas?

They had something to do with his historic role in forging German unity, he was told. The vague brush strokes were not a comment on his policies.

He had been in power for 14 years. At the end of this month he will overtake Konrad Adenauer as the longest serving chancellor in this century.

It is a feat no one could have predicted, and it appeared at times that even the CDU's delegates to this auspicious party conference were rubbing their eyes in disbelief.

Somebody in his entourage had clearly decided that one shock deserved another. Mr Kohl's artistic tastes are not exactly modern. In his musical tastes Vivaldi marks the boundary of tolerance; his main visual inspirations come from the time of Dürer. A lifetime of artistic achievement is encapsulated by a cookery book written with his wife, Hannelore.

Now he had the chance to become a modern man, to indulge in contemporary art. He was very honoured, he stammered, and beamed out of the hall. He had urgent business to attend to; somebody was about to be fired.

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# US warns Europe on Middle East meddling

Robert Fisk  
Damascus

In a letter which has both angered and astonished the European Union, Warren Christopher, the United States Secretary of State, has warned all 15 EU foreign ministers not to meddle in the US-led Middle East "peace process".

Despite the fact that the "process" in the eyes of many EU ministers, is being destroyed by the refusal of Israel's right-wing government to honour the Oslo accords – and by Washington's failure to hold Israel to its signed agreements – Mr Christopher insisted that European nations should "refrain" from any act which might endanger the Middle East peace at what he called a "delicate moment".

The letter was sent individually to governments after the Dublin summit earlier this

month when European leaders decided to dispatch the Irish Foreign Minister, Dick Spring, to Israel and the occupied territories for urgent talks with the Israeli Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and PLO chairman, Yasser Arafat. Mr Spring's Middle East trip was followed this week by that of President Jacques Chirac who has repeatedly emphasised France's desire to see a Palestinian state and the completion of a Middle East settlement based on land for peace, the formula originally agreed at the 1991 Madrid conference.

The French Foreign Minister, Hervé de Charette, has sent a diplomatic reply to Mr Christopher – pointing out that France would never do anything to harm the peace process nor try to take the place of the US – but in Damascus on Saturday, Mr Chirac pointedly referred to "the explosive potential of poor-

ly managed international situations", adding that it was "time for Europe to co-sponsor this process".

The "poor management", it seemed clear, referred to Mr Christopher's lamentable stewardship of the "peace process".

No sooner had Mr Chirac landed in Israel yesterday than David Bar-Ilan, Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, rejected the French proposal. Despite Mr Chirac's insistence that he was a "great friend" of Israel, Mr Bar-Ilan said that "Europe and particularly France have taken such a one-sided pro-Arab position that it would be foolhardy to consider" an enlarged European role in the "peace process".

EU governments appreciate that President Bill Clinton cannot bring pressure on Israel in advance of the US elections but fear that the Clinton administration – the most pro-

Israeli in a generation – may prove equally weak in confronting Mr Netanyahu's government afterwards.

One senior EU official said here at the weekend: "If things don't change quickly, there's going to be a real explosion in the occupied territories, worse than the one which cost 75 lives last month. We have to tell Netanyahu that. The peace process is not dead but it is in a very, very serious state."

As if to reinforce his words, President Hafez al-Assad of Syria sounded bleaker than ever before in his own assessment of the "peace" that the world once believed to be imminent in the Middle East. "The present position taken by the Israeli government," he said, "amounts to a total refusal [to accept] the foundations of the peace that have already been agreed; it is a total abolition of the peace process."



All smiles: President Jacques Chirac (right) and Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem yesterday.

Photograph: AFP

## SA truth inquiry set to subpoena PW Botha

Mary Braid  
Johannesburg

Former state president PW Botha gave direct orders for the bombing of the headquarters of the South African Council of Churches in Johannesburg, a former police commissioner told the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) yesterday.

General Johan van der Merwe, subpoenaed by the commission, said that Adrian Vlok, the former law and order minister, instructed him to destroy Khotse House in 1988 and said the order came from Mr Botha.

Yesterday's revelation takes the commission, set up to uncover the truth about the apartheid years, closer than ever before to the old National Party cabinet and to Mr Botha. It now looks increasingly likely that the former state president will be subpoenaed to appear before the TRC. A few weeks ago, Mr Vlok became the first minister to be called.

Such a subpoena would be politically delicate and socially divisive. Mr Botha refuses to recognise the commission.

Yesterday's evidence undermines FW de Klerk's assertion, during his party's official submission to the TRC in the summer, that while the National Party created the conditions under which atrocities could take place, it never ordered them. Mr Botha did not co-operate with the party's submission.

General van der Merwe's revelation took yesterday's TRC hearing in Johannesburg by surprise. He had been called to give evidence in support of five police officers seeking amnesty for an array of apartheid-era atrocities in return for information on 40 killings, including high profile political assassinations. The five – including Brigadier Jack Cronje, former commander of the notorious Vlakplaas hit squad – are the most senior police officers to approach the commission.

Lawyers claimed before the hearing that their clients would implicate senior officers, former ministers and even provide ammunition for the TRC to subpoena Mr Botha. Further allegations concerning the former president are expected during the week-long hearing.

At the opening of the hearing the men called on their superior officers and National Party leaders to admit authorising illegal acts to keep themselves in power. In a statement they said they found it hard to believe Mr de Klerk's assertion that he had been unaware of government-authorised assassinations, tortures and rapes.

Extracts from a 1917 speech by General Jan Smuts and a poem by Afrikaans poet C. Louis Leipoldt set the emotional atmosphere as the men claimed they were not criminals but had always acted in the interests of the National Party and their country. They said they had been brought up to believe apartheid was sanctioned by God through the church and that black people were inferior. The men must convince the commission that their acts were politically motivated to win amnesty.

The start of yesterday's hearing was held up by the increasingly bitter battle between the commission and state prosecutors concerning authority over alleged perpetrators of apartheid crimes and witnesses in pending criminal prosecutions.

The submission for amnesty by the five police officers was a coup for the TRC which has been criticised for failing to flush out perpetrators. The last seven months of hearing have focused mainly on victims' harrowing stories. But last week, when the commission announced the names of the five men who would testify, Jan D'Oliviera, Transvaal attorney general, had two of them arrested and charged with murder in connection with a two-year investigation. Yesterday, he ap-



General Moir: Denied files had been destroyed

posed subpoenas on four police officers, who are witnesses in pending criminal cases, to this week's commission hearings. The commission reserved judgment on Mr D'Oliviera's objections.

The courts complain, that the TRC is interfering with long-running criminal investigations. Two weeks ago the commission complained that the courts were the wrong forum for South Africa to deal with its apartheid past following the state's failure to convict General Magnus and a handful of generals of 13 murders, despite a seven-month trial costing 7 million rands.

In a separate development yesterday an official submission to the TRC by the South African National Defence Force denied that thousands of compromising military documents from the apartheid era had been destroyed by the military. General George Meiring, head of the SANDF, said in his testimony to the commission that he was not aware of any unauthorised or illegal destruction of documents.

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For years, Mr and Mrs Allen enjoyed the peace and quiet of their home in Great Gillingham, Norfolk. It was a peaceful place, with a large garden and a beautiful view of the sea. But then, one day, a butterfly landed on their table. It was a beautiful butterfly, with orange and black wings. But it was also a very fierce butterfly. It was a ferocious butterfly.

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BECK'S BEER BREWERY GERMANY SINCE 1874



# Cold War games: From a rendezvous on a rainy street, volunteers were whisked to a school for revolution

## MI6-trained rebels fought Soviets in Hungarian revolt

Christopher Bellamy  
Defence Correspondent  
Adrian Bridge  
Budapest

Some of the rebels who took on the Soviet Union in the Hungarian uprising, 40 years ago this week, were trained by the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS) – popularly known as MI6 – according to the author of a new book on the history of the organisation.

Last night, the Foreign Office said it would not comment on "operational intelligence matters". However, Michael Smith, the author of *New Cloak, Old Dagger*, to be published by Gollancz on 7 November, said: "The officers I spoke to said there was an intention to cause an uprising in Hungary." But he added: "There is no evidence that this was specifically sparked by MI6 because there was another series of events".

An estimated 15,000 mainly young, working-class Hungarians took up arms in the 1956 uprising, defying the might of the Soviet military for almost two weeks. An estimated

3,000-4,000 Hungarians died in the revolt, which represented the most serious challenge to Soviet rule in Eastern Europe since it was imposed following the Second World War.

In 1955 the reformist Hungarian prime minister, Imre Nagy, was forced to resign, and in 1956 the Soviet premier, Nikita Khrushchev, denounced Stalin and his legacy. The clamour for reform began to grow. The revolt broke out on 23 October after more than 100,000 students took to the streets to call for free elections, the withdrawal of Soviet forces and the reinstatement of Mr Nagy. Small bands of fighters established pockets of resistance and demobilised scores of Soviet tanks.

Some of the weapons used were American, and others almost certainly British. Mr Smith says MI6 and the CIA had buried arms caches in the woods around Prague and Budapest for use by "stay-behind" parties or fifth columnists in case of war.

The mid-1950s were regarded by the British and the United States as the last chance to challenge Soviet domination over eastern Europe. The

Eisenhower administration had been elected on a platform of "liberating" the Soviet satellite states, but in the 10 years since the Allied victory in Europe, the Soviet Union had strengthened its hold over the central and eastern part of the continent.

The name of Mr Smith's main contact – a military officer working for MI6 – has been withheld under a D-notice. However, he recalled "picking up agents on the Hungarian border" to take them across in to the British-occupied zone of Austria in 1954. "We were taking them up into the mountains and giving them a sort of... crash course. I would be told to pick somebody up from a street corner at a certain time of night in the pouring rain. Graz was our staging point. Then, after we'd trained them – explosives, weapons training – I used to take them back... We were training the agents for the uprising."

In return, the British received information. Paul Gorka was one of a group of students recruited in the early 1950s to gather intelligence on Soviet activity in Hungary. "In due course we received coded messages



Unforgotten heroes: Laszlo Rajk, a former dissident, pays respects to Imre Nagy, ousted as Hungary's PM in 1955. Photograph: Reuters

from Vienna asking us for information about Russian troop movements... We replied with information written in invisible ink in innocuous letters to special addresses".

Unfortunately the Budapest students met in a coffee bar to discuss

their activities and were swiftly rounded up. Mr Gorka was interrogated for several weeks, strung up from a beam and immersed in icy water. Under torture, he confessed, and was sent to prison for 15 years.

Laszlo Regeczy-Nagy, the President of the Committee for Historical Justice, representing the interests of the veterans, said: "There were thousands of Hungarians living in Austria at the time and some were undoubtedly organised and trained by the British."

He believes that foreign intervention played a modest role, and "the vast majority of those taking part [in the revolt] were locally trained and led". He added: "Even without training, they pretty quickly learned how to fire machine guns and hurl Molotov cocktails."

# Dole endures ten-gallon ritual for battle he has to win

Elaine Davenport

Austin — "The practical problem is if we don't carry Texas, the election is lost," said Tom Pauken, state Republican chairman. That is why on Thursday the world will see Bob Dole, the Republican candidate for President, in a ten-gallon cowboy hat fulfilling the ridiculous yet ritual photo opportunity for national candidates visiting Texas.

How many votes this is likely to win is anyone's guess. But Texas is the biggest state Mr Dole has a chance of winning, and his first campaign visit since his nomination could influence the state's 30 congressional races, many of which are tight enough that the ma-

majority in the House of Representatives could rest in the balance.

As Mr Dole's commanding 54-40 lead in the Texas polls dwindled to a dead-heat, Governor George W. Bush, son of the former president, lobbied hard for Mr Dole to make a personal appearance. "I think Senator Dole understands you can't take Texas votes for granted," said George W. who would be embarrassed if his state's 32 electoral votes (New York has 33 and California 54) go to Bill Clinton.

Not since Jimmy Carter won in 1976 has Texas voted for a Democratic presidential candidate. In 1992, Texans gave former President Bush 41 per

cent, Mr Clinton 37 per cent and native son Ross Perot 22 per cent. This year, Mr Perot, whose poll figures remain in single digits, is again expected to draw votes away from the Republican nominee, not Mr Clinton.

The number of registered voters is record high this year. The National Voter Registration Act began in 1995 and has allowed voters to register at driver's licence locations and other state offices. That, and a nationally organised voter drive by Latinos, has resulted in a 19 per cent jump since 1992 in Texas's registered voters.

Another record this year is the number of primary voters available to candidates. Nationally, these figures are in the news as the

## ★ TEXAS TALES

Democrats defend a \$425,000 (\$280,000) donation from an Indonesian couple and Mr Dole defends \$200,000 given him over the years by Archer-Daniels-Midland, a company just fined \$100m for price-fixing.

These dollars came left and right from individuals, political action committees, national political parties and the federal government. Dollars from the left are visible in two tight Texas congressional races which the national AFL-CIO-American

Union's equivalent of the TUC – has targeted as part of a \$35m campaign to help the Democrats regain control of Congress.

Republican Ron Paul, whose district lies between Houston and Austin, has made his own television advertisements to counter the "half-million dollar campaign by big labour to elect their fellow liberal, Lefty Morris". And Congressman Steve Stockman, a Republican from near Houston who is targeted by organised labour, has asked the courts to intervene.

In the last fortnight, Mr Stockman has heeded his \$300,000 in negative television advertisements paid for by the AFL-CIO, which Mr Stockman says misrepresents his vot-

ing record. A US district judge turned down Mr Stockman's request for a restraining order, saying the matter should be considered by the Federal Election Commission, which probably will not do so until after the 5 November election.

Dollars from the right are visible in other Congressional races. Ralph Reed, director of the national Christian Coalition, says his conservative evangelical group, which was influential in creating the 1994 Republican majority in Congress, is targeting the country's 30 Congressional seats left open by Democrats. Nineteen are in the South, one of the regions where his group claims 1.7 million is stronger. Six of these are seats in Texas.

Lest we all begin to take politics too seriously, comic relief arrived in the form of a Texas politician making a fool of himself. Copies of a television documentary, to be shown nationwide in late October, became public in which Rodney Ellis, a state senator, was seen kissing hands and slapping backs on the Senate floor to get votes. Trouble was, Mr Ellis was wired for sound, a fact which he had failed to mention to other senators, who felt betrayed when what they thought were private remarks became public.

"I've gotten a well-deserved public whipping," said Mr Ellis, laughing apologetically. "You try to learn from your mistakes, and this one was a doozy."



Bob Dole: First campaign visit since his nomination

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## obituaries / gazette

## John Hillaby

Pedestrian was the last word to apply to John Hillaby, though he has been called the most celebrated pedestrian in England. Yet like his contemporaries, Clive Wainwright and Wilfred Thesiger, he was admired as much by armchair idlers as by the serious walking fraternity. Whether pacing rapidly through the streets of London or across the high moors of his beloved Yorkshire, his tall, spare figure was instantly recognisable, and even in his seventies he could leave younger men struggling in his wake.

Born in 1917, the son of a printer, he was educated at Woodhouse Grove school, Leeds, from where he made his early countryside excursions. He began his career as a journalist on local weeklies in the West Riding, but was quickly caught up in the Second World War, serving active service with the Royal Artillery, notably in the retreat through Dunkirk. He married, first, in 1940, Eleanor Riley, with whom he had two daughters, though this marriage was later dissolved.

Returning from the war he took up journalism again, and from 1949 was zoological correspondent on the then *Manchester Guardian*. The *New York Times* engaged him as European science correspondent from 1951, and the *New Scientist* as biological consultant from 1953.



Hillaby: passionate about the natural world. Photograph: Michael Alcott

He published his first book, *Within the Stream*, in 1949, and all the time he was travelling, in Africa, North America and, of course, in Britain. He never scorned modern transport (though he hated motorways), but used it mainly to get him to where he wished to start serious travel, which for him was on his own two feet.

Disembarking from the boat at the Hook of Holland at the beginning of his walk to Nice he observed that:

Most of the passengers drove ashore. They hooted at each other. They hooted at me. Normally, there is nothing I hate more than being hooted at... It gives me high-minded notions of being the only traveller to step in a world gone mad on wheels.

Hillaby was a director of the Universities Federation of Animal Welfare, and a frequent broadcaster on radio and television. He was made a Fellow of the Zoological Society, was awarded an honorary D.Litt. by the City University, and in 1973 was appointed Woodward Lecturer at Yale University.

After publishing *Nature and Man* in 1960, Hillaby really made his impact upon the literary scene with *Journey to the Jade Sea* (1964), about his remarkable thousand-mile walk from Northern Kenya to Lake Rudolf, alone except for his hired bearers and a string of

camels, many of whom acquire personality and character under his pen. His rueful sense of this novice, inept with the animals, awkward with his rifle, and dependent on the Africans for guidance and support, is belied by the achievement itself and by the professionalism of his planning and organisation. The reviewer gave it warm praise, as much for its literary quality as for the journey itself, and the book remains a classic among travel writings, having brought a new, individual and endearing personality before the reading public.

It also set the pattern and style for his later writings: *Journey Through Britain* (1968), an account of his walk from Land's End to John-o'-Groats, almost entirely on tracks and bridle ways; *Journey Through Europe* (1972), his similar walk from the Hook of Holland to Nice by way of the Alps; and *Journey Through Love* (1976), on scattered travels in Britain and America, which also recounts the death from cancer in 1972 of his second wife, Thelma ("Tilly") whom he had married in 1966. Hillaby was deeply affected by Thelma's death, but although he was a solitary walker he was a companionable man, and in 1981 he married Kathleen Burton. Katie was to bring him more than domestic support. A doughty Yorkshire woman who had lived much of her life in Ceylon, she proved to be as enthusiastic a walker as John Hillaby himself, and from now on she accompanied him on his travels and appears as a cheerful, practical figure in several of his subsequent books.

These were *Journey Home* (1983); *John Hillaby's Yorkshire* (1986); *John Hillaby's London* (1987); and *Journey to the Gods* (1991), in which he returned to his earlier formal with an account of his walk from Athens to Mount Olympus. His last book, *Hillaby's World: Adventures Across Three Continents* (1992), is a selection from his earlier writings, and makes available some of his more fugitive pieces.

In his books Hillaby was always able to strike the right balance between comments on the observed scene and his own participation in it. His person-



Hillaby on the shores of Lake Rudolf, half way through his remarkable thousand-mile walk through Kenya

ality invests the writing, but always humbly, and in spite of the extraordinary range of learning and knowledge he demonstrates. Archaeology, architecture, geology, climate, plant and animal life, philology, literature, music, and, always, people, he communicates all with wit, wisdom and originality. Curiously for somebody whose prose reads with such ease and grace, the act of writing came very hard to him, and the apparent spontaneity was the result of much sweat and torment at the desk.

Before any journey Hillaby would prepare his mind and his body with equal rigour: his mind by extensive research into the region he was about to visit (he was a familiar figure at the London Library where he had a genius for unearthing offbeat pieces on his chosen subject), and his body by punishing walks through the streets of London

burdened with a deliberately overweighted backpack, which he constantly modified and adapted. The physical accoutrements of walking were important to him, and his practical advice to others is invaluable. London was his home for many years, and he walked daily to Hampstead Heath, to which he was devoted. In his late sixties he was knocked down by a car outside Green Park, underground station (the irony was not lost on him), and never fully recovered from his injuries, though he was able to resume his long walks.

He settled in York for the last four years of his life and there, towards the end, was afflicted by osteoarthritis of the spine, which rendered him practically immobile, struggling to walk as far as the corner of the street, a condition with which he found it hard to come to terms. John Hillaby had an unob-

trusive but committed religious belief, and at the same time was a man with a huge relish for life, gregarious, generous, and endlessly interested in everything. He was passionate about the natural world, and thrilled to its diversity. Once, visiting Cuckmere Haven with him, I saw him ecstatic when he caught sight of a kingfisher plunging into tidal waters, something he had only heard about, half-disbelieving, but was now witnessing for himself. It was this sense of delighted wonder that he was able to convey to the world, directly as a companion as well as through his writings.

Douglas Matthews

*John Hillaby, writer, naturalist and traveller, born 24 July 1917; married 1940 Eleanor Riley (marriage dissolved 1966; two daughters); 1966 Thelma Gordon (died 1972); 1981 Kathleen Burton; died York 19 October 1996.*

## Keith Boyce

Having produced the greatest cricketing all-rounder, Garfield Sobers, the West Indies have had difficulty in filling the mould. Most of their great batsmen can bowl a little, all their fast bowlers can swing the bat, but the genuine Test-class all-rounder has been rare. Collis King and Keith Boyce apart.

Much depends upon a boy's coaching. Boyce was a product of the famous Empire Club in Barbados. He arrived at the nets as a leg-break bowler with a good defensive batting technique. His coaches soon spotted that he was happier bowling fast and hitting hard. "I like to hit the ball as far as I can," he told *Hindin* in 1974, when he was a cricketer of the Year. "When it goes a long way it gives me a deep satisfaction".

When Trevor Bailey saw him appearing for Barbados against Cavaliers in 1965 he signed him as a fast bowler, not having seen his batting. Boyce spent two years qualifying for Essex, playing for the Second XI and Walthamstow, arriving just in time to turn Essex into a major power in the new Sunday

League, a form of cricket that might have been devised for him. In his day he was a prodigious player, fast right arm bowler, a furious striker of the ball and a beautifully athletic fielder, deadly from almost any distance, running out a few famous names.

Adrenalin-fuelled, he was a volatile, excitable man, played upon by his opponents. He had a few memorable clashes with Yorkshire; a play was devised by his captain, Brian "Tonker" Taylor, to remove Geoffrey Boycott, who had scored 260 not out and 232 in the two preceding Championship games against Essex.

Boyce was instructed to give Boycott a slowish, first-ball bounce. For once temptation won, Boycott went to hook the ball flew off his glove directly to Taylor, who dropped it. Taylor, expressionless, flicked the ball back to an angry Boyce. Boycott scored 121 and 86 in the match.

On another occasion when Boyce was batting and Richard Hunton, renowned for a savagely sarcastic sense of humour, was in the Yorkshire slips, a remark

was passed. David Bairstow recalled: "I don't know whether Dick was talking about Boyce, West Indians in general or even Chelmsford fish and chips, but Boyce was so mad he carried a picture of Dick around in his top pocket for two years."

Once told to block out for a draw, Boyce responded by hitting an enormous six before being stumped yards out. His response to his captain's rollicking was: "I thought it would waste more time if I kept hitting it over the pavilion."

When all did go right for Boyce it was the opposition who suffered. He once went in to bat at 12.30 and scored a century (125) before lunch at 1.30. He was the first to 1,000 runs and 100 wickets in the Sunday League; Cambridge University met him on his debut, and he took 9-61 against Leicestershire, in 1973, he had figures of 113 and 12-73.

He played 21 times for the West Indies, touring England in 1973 and 1975, taking 19 wickets at an average of 15 in the three Tests of 1973. In the Prudential World Cup Final of 1975

Boyce's versatility gave the West Indies the decisive edge over Australia. For Essex he scored almost 9,000 runs and took 852 wickets at an average of 25. Add his one-day career and his 215 first-class catches, his loss to Essex and cricket, after 12 summers in England, through injury at the age of 34, can be seen to have been enormous.

His return to Barbados was far from happy, his domestic difficulties including the loss of his house in a storm and the break-up of his marriage. He remained in touch with the game, coaching and organising a lottery in support of the Barbados Cricket Association, and was visiting a drugstore when he collapsed. He will be remembered with pride and affection in Essex, for he was one of the names who helped move that county from the backyard to the front room of county cricket.

Derek Hodgson

*Keith David Boyce, cricketer, born St Peter, Barbados 11 October 1943; twice married (two daughters); died Barbados 11 October 1996.*



Boyce: a prodigious player, adrenalin-fuelled. Photograph: Hulton Getty

## Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin was the epitome of the versatile and talented naval officer whose life's work fell into two parts. There was his service in the Royal Navy and, following his retirement, his long effort to make the country aware of the importance of the sea at a time when it had become fashionable to dismiss ships and their associated industries and professions as tired and spent forces.

Born in 1920, Griffin entered the Navy in 1934 through the traditional route of a Dartmouth cadetship. His first ship was the cruiser *Gloucester* in which he sailed in 1939 as a midshipman. From then on he was regularly promoted and frequently active.

During the Second World War Griffin was on board the SS *Briarcliffe*, on his way to join the destroyer *Hereford*, when it was sunk by a German raider off Freetown. His next ship, where he served as navigating officer, was the destroyer *Fury*, which took him on a convoy to Malta and on several Arctic convoys in 1942.

In 1943, Griffin was appointed First Lieutenant of the destroyer *Typhoon*, after which he specialised in navigation. On the carrier *Implacable* he saw operations in Norwegian waters, and whilst on the carrier *Empress* in the Far East he was mentioned in dispatches for successful survey work in Malaya.

After the war he attended the navigation school HMS *Dryad*, and in 1952 took up a senior position at the Admiralty Signal and Radar Establishment. Two years later he joined the carrier *Eagle*. His two year service included the Anglo-French expedition to regain the Suez Canal in 1956. Ensuing promotions led to a career at the Admiralty, interspersed with activity at sea.

It was during the succeeding years, as Rear Admiral and Naval Secretary, that Griffin became closely involved with the cancellation of the large aircraft carrier project known as CVA01. The project would have been a logical development for the Navy in so far as it recognised the importance of air power at sea, and was taken to full design stage. Nevertheless, the government of the day cancelled the project in 1966, causing significant discontent in Admiralty circles. Griffin helped deal with the aftermath, where he recognised the usefulness of tact and persuasion.

In 1971 Griffin was appointed Controller of the Navy and Third Sea Lord, a position, which he held for no less than five years. At a time when the shape of the Royal Navy was under intense scrutiny and its role uncertain, Griffin saw into being the style of fleet we still see today, which ranged from the smaller aircraft carriers through anti-submarine and anti-air war frigates to nuclear submarines. He retired from the Navy in 1975.

In the early Seventies, there was intensive discussion in Parliament about the nationalising of the shipbuilding industry. On his retirement as controller of the Navy, Griffin had been selected as chairman designate of the new national corporation, subsequently known as British Shipbuilders, but endured a long period of uncertainty while the political argument raged. When the corporation was eventually inaugurated Griffin was chairman for three years. Whether his gentlemanly approach was a match for the en-

trenched might of the shipbuilding industrialists was open to question, but the creation of a unified body from such a group of individualists again owed much to his powers of persuasion. Typical of his thorough interest was his requirement that he meet every entrant to the corporation's headquarters staff, however lowly.

Following his retirement from British Shipbuilders in 1981 Griffin conducted a powerful crusade on behalf of British Maritime interests. He saw the sea as an asset, a resource and a defence and was determined to reinstall a pride in all associated activities, whether on land or at sea. During his tenure as President of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects (RINA), he became convinced of the desirability of merging the two senior professional bodies, the RINA and the Institute of Marine Engineers, in order to give the maritime engineer a more powerful voice. It was through no fault of his own that the ensuing negotiations failed.

He became chairman of governors of Wellington College and in 1982 was largely instrumental in setting up the British Maritime League. This body,



Griffin: a powerful crusader

which included a wide selection of naval, political and professional figures, aimed to increase public awareness of the importance of the sea for Britain. It enjoyed strong support around the time of the Falklands War but ran up against increasing apathy thereafter.

Anthony Griffin's perseverance was legendary as was his interest in technological developments. From the early 1980s until his death he became convinced of the possibility of propelling ships with hydrogen as fuel. The hydrogen was to be obtained through the hydrolysis of sea water and would indeed have been a major breakthrough in propulsion. Rather more practical was another of his visions, a sea-going vessel constructed of concrete, which would have greatly reduced building costs.

As well as for his dedication to all things maritime, Anthony Griffin will be remembered for his graciousness. He was the essence of consideration for others. At the age of 70 he was awarded a Royal Humane Society Award for Bravery after diving into the Thames in a vain effort to save a young Jamaican.

He married Rosemary Hickling who had been a leading Wren Plotter in Devonport in 1943. One of his sons followed his father into the Royal Navy.

Marshall Meek

*Anthony Temple Frederick Griffin, naval officer, born Freetown 24 November 1920; CB 1967, KCB 1971, GCB 1975; married 1943 Rosemary Hickling (two sons, one daughter); died 16 October 1996.*

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## DEATHS

CASHMAN, Bernard FRCS, on 17 October at Seaford Hospital. Much loved husband of Joyce, father of Peter and Celia. At his request, the cremation will be private. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Bedford and District Handicapped Riders' Association, c/o Arnold, 48 Roff Ave, Bedford MK41 1TE. Memorial celebration to be announced later.

CLARK, Arthur Bruce, on 21 October, peacefully at home, aged 86. Deeply loved by his family.

DOUGLITY, Hilary BA Hons. MA, Chartered Librarian of Essex University, formerly of Croydon Library, died in the Ipswich Hospital on Friday 19 October 1996. Funeral service at Ipswich Crematorium, North Chapel, on Friday 25 October at 1.45pm. No flowers please. Donations if desired to Ipswich Research, c/o Cooperative Funeral Service, 10 Upper Orwell Street, Ipswich IP4 1HW.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding anniversaries, In Memoriam) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3DL. Telephone 0171-293 1011 (24-hour answering machine) 0171-293 2012 or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £2.50 a line (VAT extra). OTHER Gazette announcements (weddings, funerals, forthcoming marriages, marriages) are submitted in writing (or faxed) and are charged at £10 a line (VAT extra). They should be accompanied by a daytime telephone number.

## Birthdays

Lord Birkett, film producer, 66; Colonel John Blashford-Snell, adventurer, 86; Mr William Bowman, chairman, Covent Garden Market Authority, 64; Mr Louis Carus, former principal, Birmingham School of Music, 69; Mrs Barbara Craig, former principal of Somerset College, Oxford, 81; Miss Catherine Denureux, film actress, 53; Professor Charlotte Erickson, historian, 73; Maj-Gen Lord Michael Fitzalan-Howard, Gold Stick to the Queen, 60; Miss Joan Fontaine, film actress, 79; Lady Fox, editor, British Institute of International and Comparative Law, 48; Mr Mike Hendrick, cricketer, 48; Mr Michael Heron, chairman, Post Office, 62; Miss Irene Hindmarsh, former principal, St Aldin's College, Durham, 73; Sir Derek Jacobi, actor, 55; Mrs Doris Leving, novelist, 77; Mr Donald McIntyre, opera singer, 62; Mr Kelvin MacKenzie, managing director, British Sky Broadcasting, 40; Mr Robert Rauschenberg, pop artist, 71; Mr James Shaw, chief constable of Merseyside, 33; Mr Michael Stoute, racehorse trainer, 51; Vice-Admiral Sir FitzRoy Talbot, 87; Mr Arthur Thatcher, former Director of Censuses, 70; Admiral Sir Hugo White, Governor of Gibraltar, 57; Admiral Sir David Williams, former Governor of Gibraltar, 75; Professor Sir David Williams, former Vice-Chancellor, Cambridge University, 60; Professor John Wing, psychiatrist, 75.

## Anniversaries

Births: Franz List, composer, 1811; Stephen Moulton Babcock, agricultural chemist, 1843; Sarah Bernhardt (Henriette-Rosine Bernhardt), actress, 1844; Lord Alfred Bruce

Douglas, poet, 1870; Desiderius Erasmus, cabinet-maker, 1806; Henry Richard Vassall Fox, third Baron Holland, author and statesman, 1840; Louis (Paul-Roger) Spohr, composer, 1859; Paul Cézanne, painter, 1859; Edward John Bura, painter, 1977; Pablo Casals, cellist, 1973; Arnold Joseph Townbe, historian, 1975; Naula Juliette Boulanger, music teacher, conductor and composer, 1979. On this day: 77-Bits was first published, 1851; in New York, the Metropolitan Opera House opened, 1883; Don Juan Carlos of Bourbon was proclaimed King of Spain, 1975. Today is the Feast Day of St Abacus, St Donatus of Fiesole, St Melon or Malonus, Saints Numbio and Alodia and St Philip of Hieracida and his Companions.

## Lectures

National Gallery: Mari Griffith, "Male Nudes (iv): Ribera's *The Lamentation over the Dead Christ*", 1pm.

National Portrait Gallery (to mark Trafalgar Day): Joan Walpole Reilly, "Slingshot Nelson's Prize", 1.10pm.

Victoria and Albert Museum: Irene Logan, "Art and design of the Baroque", 2.30pm.

Dinners

HMS *Victory*

Admiral Sir Michael Boyce, Second Sea Lord and Commander-in-Chief, Naval Home Command, presided at a Trafalgar Night dinner held yesterday evening on board his flagship HMS *Victory* in Portsmouth Naval Base. Among those present were Mr Roy MacLaren, High Commissioner for Canada, The Right Rev Dr KW Stevenson, Bishop of Portsmouth, Mr M. Radcliffe, High Sheriff of Hamp-

shire, General Charles Crutick, Commandant, US Marine Corps, and Air Marshal Sir David Cousins.

Albrecht, Duke of Bavaria

A Requiem Mass for Albrecht, Duke of Bavaria, will take place at Buckingham Palace, Prince Edward attends a Concert followed by Beating Retreat given by Her Majesty's Royal Marines at Guildhall, London EC2. The Duke of Gloucester opens the new Bolton District Probation Office, St Helen Mills, Bolton; visits the Green Hill Regeneration Area. The Duke is accompanied by the Duchess of Gloucester opens the refurbished Crown Courts, Macclesfield Street, Manchester, and at Paternoster, Heritage of London Trust Ltd, attends a reception to celebrate the Queen's 150th anniversary at Fishmongers' Hall, London EC4. The Duchess of Gloucester opens the new classroom at Fairfield High School for Girls on the occasion of the School's bicentenary. Draydon, and opens Canterbury House, the offices of the charities After Adoption and Advocacy Services for Children, Chapel Street, Salford.

Changing of the Guard

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

New procedure for hearings in chambers

LAW REPORT

22 October 1996

Practice Direction (Judges in Chambers: Amended Procedure): Queen's Bench Division (Lord Bingham of Cornhill, Lord Chief Justice) 15 October 1996

To expedite hearings of summonses and appeals by the Queen's Bench judge in chambers, the existing procedure (see Practice Direction (Judge in Chambers: Amended Procedure) [1989] 1 WLR 359) has been reorganised as follows.

1. All inter partes applications and appeals to the judge in chambers will initially be entered in a general list. They will be listed for hearing in Room E101 or some other room at the Royal Courts of Justice on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

Where any application or appeal is likely to last more than 30 minutes, it will be transferred to the Chambers Warned List. If the parties agree it is likely to last more than 30 minutes, the applicant/appellant must as soon as practicable, and no later than 12 noon on the working day before the date given, transfer the case to the Chambers Warned List. If the parties do not so agree, or agree less than 24 hours before the date given, they must attend on the date given.

2. Cases in the Chambers

Warned List will be listed in the Daily Cause List by the Clerk of the Lists when he prepares the following day's list at 2.15 pm. He will where possible accept "offers" in the week in which the matter appears in the warned list. Fixtures will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

3. To ensure a complete set of papers in proper order is available for the judge before hearing such applications and appeals, the parties must in advance of the hearing lodge in Room W11/W13 an agreed bundle, pagged and indexed in date order, containing: (i) the notice of appeal or summons; (ii) any pleadings; (iii) copies of all affidavits (with any exhibits thereto) upon which any party intends to rely; and (iv) any relevant order made in the action.

Originals of all affidavits to be relied on should be bespoken or produced at the hearing and all exhibits be available. A skeleton argument and, where helpful, a chronology should be lodged.

The bundle must be lodged not later than 48 hours after the parties have been notified the

case is to appear in the warned list. For cases to be heard in the general list, the bundle must be lodged at least 48 hours before the hearing. Skeleton arguments (with chronology) must be lodged not later than 24 hours before the hearing.

4. Except with leave of the judge, no document may be adduced in evidence or relied on unless a copy of it has been lodged and the original produced.

Practice Direction (ancillary relief: pilot scheme) Family Division (Sir Stephen Brown, President) 25 July 1996

Under a pilot scheme which commenced on 1 October 1996, all ancillary relief applications, in matrimonial proceedings, pending or commenced in the Principal Registry, Family Division and certain specified county courts, were to be subject to a new procedure.

Sir Stephen Brown, President of the Family Division, said the rule applied to all ancillary relief applications including those under section 10(2) of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, where notice of the application or of inten-

tion to proceed with the application for ancillary relief made in the petition or answer was filed on or after 1 October.

The new rule provided for an early first directions appointment at which directions would be given with the objective of defining the issues and saving costs. Provision was made for there to be a financial dispute resolution (FDR) appointment where proposals for resolving the application could be discussed in circumstances of privilege. The extent of discovery would be limited.

Where legal representatives attended the first appointment or FDR appointment they would be required to have full knowledge of the case.

The district judge or judge before whom the FDR appointment was held would have no further involvement with the application other than to conduct any further FDR appointment. Where possible, all appointments other than the FDR appointment should be before the same district judge.

The application of the Family Proceedings Rules 1991 (SI 1247) to proceedings covered by the new rule would be modified according to the direction.

Paul Magrath, Barrister

0171 293 1011



# Build a moral society, but a liberal one

Out of tragedy emerges an activist. Frances Lawrence would never have made her public plea for a more moral society had her husband Philip not been stabbed to death by a teenager. Or at least she had, the country would not have listened. Likewise the Dunblane parents would never have supported such a determined campaign against handguns had Thomas Hamilton not murdered their children. There is a valiant attempt to create meaning and purpose out of horrific events and we should applaud them for it.

But the very fact that these movements are emerging in response to emotive but isolated incidents is enough to make many people suspicious. After all, were it not for the front-page headlines day after day on the violence of Dunblane and the death of Mr Lawrence, we wouldn't be listening to Mrs Lawrence or supporting the Snowdrop petition against guns.

However, just because something is driven by emotion doesn't make it wrong. Too much emotion is not the weakness in this nascent moral majority. That, surely, is one of the ways in which representative democracy works. Far more troubling is the possibility that in the short term the hand-wringing will have no impact at all on the real problems in the country, and in the longer term could deteriorate into hostility and intolerance towards people who resist its more sweeping admonitions.

When making laws and judgements, we need to distinguish between synthetic hysteria fuelled by media hype and genuine deep-rooted public desire for change.

Emotional reactions to news reporting can indeed make us irrational. Fear and anxiety for the safety of our children makes many parents over-cautious about letting their offspring go out alone, despite the fact that they are no more at risk from dangerous strangers today than they were 20 years ago. Media hype and public panic is stopping young children properly developing a sense of independence and responsibility.

So yes, we should be cautious and tread carefully in our search for authenticity. Exaggerated fears and emotions should not be the basis for moral judgements and public policy.

However, sometimes it takes a tragedy to raise support for a very sensible campaign. In the US it took the shooting of a president, and a public campaign by the man who was caught in the crossfire, Jim Brady, to build enough political support for new restrictions on gun ownership. No matter how much the general public might have believed in it before, it took a human drama to mobilise enough grassroots support to defeat the powerful gun lobby.

Likewise in Britain, most of us would always have agreed that hand guns should be kept out of the home, but it took a tragedy to get us angry enough

to bounce the Government into the right action.

Similarly Mrs Lawrence and the public figures who jumped on her bandwagon yesterday are right to call for the re-moralising of society. A selfish nation of atomised individuals is indeed an immoral place to be. The Catholic Church has said as much this week. John Major, Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown have all concurred, in different ways.

But we should question hard what lies behind this cacophony of anguished voices. Aside from the sensible calls for controls on dangerous weapons the demands are rather nebulous. Support-

ing parents and family life is all very well, and doubtless those parents and families who already practise what is preached by the media, the politicians and these emerging grassroots activists, will nod their heads with enthusiasm. But uniting all those who already believe that their children should be inculcated with a sense of social responsibility won't have much impact on the lives of teenagers like Lennor Chindamo, the youth who stabbed Mr Lawrence. Nor will appealing for children to read books rather than watch telly help those troubled violent young people who never properly learned to read.

Re-moralising society is pointless if "society" really means the articulate middle-class "New Victorians" who already instinctively agree with and adhere to every precept. It is pointless if the people in trouble and causing trouble are not a part of mainstream society in the first place. An effective grassroots moral campaign will be one that reaches out to those who are excluded and alienated, not one that just fuels the resentment and outrage of insiders.

In fact it would be a campaign that built on the achievements of Philip Lawrence, a headmaster who tried to instil ethics and hope in troubled teenagers, rather than on the empty proselytising of some politicians. Re-moralising the majority to persuade them willingly to give more through taxation or, even better, through their personal time, to help solve social problems would be a great achievement indeed.

Even more troubling, when this growing moral majority realises that its hand-wringing is ineffective, it is likely to become increasingly intolerant of the people it failed to help and failed to reach. The illiberal elements are already in place. Calls for strong two-parent families can easily degenerate into condemnation of other family arrangements, no matter how successful and loving these may be. Tony Blair was worryingly hesitant when asked for his views on gay couples with children.

Frances Lawrence was right to speak

out, just as the Dunblane parents were right to channel their energy into the Snowdrop campaign. They speak with far more moral authority than politicians these days, and their voices deserve to be heard. But we should be careful how we in the public, politics and media react to the stories they tell. We should not be striving for a society that indulges in blanket condemnation on the basis of prejudice. We need a more moral and less violent country. But we want to live in a liberal land as well.

## The politics of prayer

Meanwhile, still on the subject of our moral fabric... We are not impressed by the rush of politicians (Major, Blair, Redwood *et al*) to emphasise their religiosity and the frequency with which they pray. There is more than a hint of Christopher Robins about it: "Hush, hush, whisper who dares, powerful gentlemen are saying their prayers." This is not the British way. We suspect that the stronger the conviction, the less flaunted it will be. In club houses and homes the maxim about not discussing politics or religion is adhered to. Now, no newspaper editorialist would go along with that. But we are against discussing both in the same breath.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Guns: if the mental safety catch fails

Sir: Gun clubs are where one learns to shoot, whatever use that skill may be put to and there are powerful unconscious forces at work when a man chooses handgun shooting as his sport and these forces remain when mental illness supervenes, without the safety catch provided by reason, prudence and conscience. The Government would be wise to ban such guns, even if it means depriving innocent citizens who find an outlet for their instincts in shooting for sport.

One remembers the story of Hermann Goering arriving late and dressed for the field at a dinner given by our ambassador, Sir Eric Phipps. When Goering apologised with the explanation that he had been out shooting, the ambassador is said to have replied: "Animals, I hope, Herr Reichsmarschall."

I note that the targets on shooting ranges are usually human representations. Professor JOHN A DAVIS Cambridge

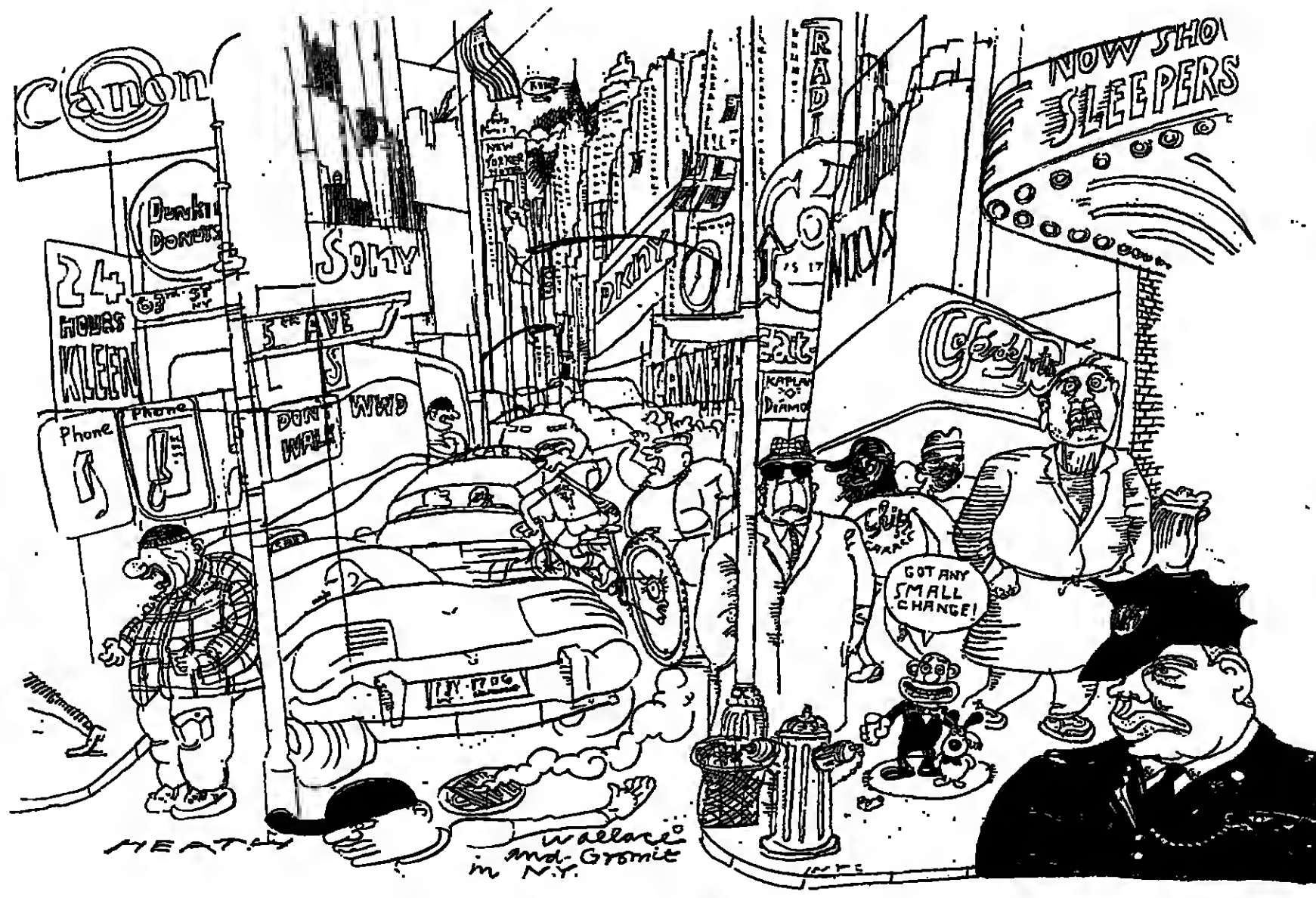
Sir: Your editorial ("Ban all handguns now. There's nothing to lose", 17 October) stretches historical fact somewhat. Most previous legislation was not to ban ownership of guns generally, but to restrict easy access to the "right" people so that in the event of insurrection the supporters of the Establishment would be the ones with access.

In Victorian times, the sale of pocket pistols and guns for personal and home protection was probably at its highest, and Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson seem to have had no problems of purchase or retention. Prior to that Mr Mantoin was selling his superbly designed and manufactured duelling pistols, now to be banned (or target shooting, and officers in the forces were expected to supply their own).

The 1920 Act was rushed through by a government fearful of a Bolshevik revolution, and again was intended to disarm the "common people". When the threat of invasion came with the Second World War, we had to run to the United States with a begging bowl to arm the Home Defence Forces.

After the war, many of these guns, given by individuals to help fight for democracy, were scrapped by a government once again apparently fearful of its own population's responsibility.

We do not have a "gun culture" here - no one may carry or use a pistol for personal protection or home defence, and if drug dealers and other criminals are becoming more attracted to firearms, this has no bearing on legal owners. PETER GILLET Farnborough, Hampshire



Michael Heath's New York

If we are going to ban privately owned handguns because of 16 deaths at Dunblane, then surely the thousands of dead in Northern Ireland, and the even greater number who might otherwise be killed following a withdrawal, must justify a complete ban on all privately held firearms in Northern Ireland. R. A. MCCARTNEY Farnborough, Hampshire

Sir: During my week-long visit to your country, UK news has been dominated by the issue of handgun control. In a hasty and biased, one-sided debate, both print and broadcast media have echoed the passionately emotional yet substantively vacant arguments of those MPs and subjects who favour a total ban. More amazing still is *The Independent's* editorial position (17 October) that the surrender of one's liberties in pursuit of security is a price well worth paying.

One of the noblest of our forefathers, Benjamin Franklin, bless his far-sighted wisdom, realised that any man willing to make such an exchange would one day have a jailer. JACK BOTLER Seabrook, Texas, USA

Sir: I have discovered a most revealing parallel with the clamour for compensation to be paid to deprived gun-owners, through their various organisations. In 1853, at the time of the Abolishment of Slavery Act (ultimately passed in Parliament after enormous struggles), £20m (then) was paid to Britain's deprived slave-owners as compensation. MICHAEL SUTCLIFFE Southwold, Suffolk

### All change over Hawk exports

Sir: The Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, told Parliament during the defence estimates debate on 14 October: "I have no evidence that Hawk aircraft have been used against the population of Indonesia" (*Hansard*, 14 October, col 479).

The Defence Secretary should refer to the evidence of the Prime Minister to the Scott Inquiry, given orally on 17 January 1994. There he will find clear reasons why he should not be so complacent about the sale of Hawk aircraft to Indonesia.

John Major told Lord Justice Scott: "The Hawk trainer, as the Hawk trainer, was non-lethal [referring to prospective sale to Iraq]." But "the Hawk trainer, as altered, to use chemical weapons, would certainly have been lethal, and I think the view I took at the time was that it was far too high a risk with the particular regime in Iraq, that that might happen. So I [as Foreign Secretary] was not at all keen on the Hawk being sold." (Transcript Day 55, pages 24-25.)

The reason Bishop Carlos Belo and Jose Ramos Horta won the Nobel Peace Prize for fighting against Indonesian government repression in East Timor underlines the belief by independent authorities that they have had a real - and brave - cause to fight. No doubt Indonesia's military could convert trainer Hawks to

offensive combat aircraft as efficiently as Mr Major feared Saddam Hussein's brutal regime would do in Iraq to indulge in similar repression of minority peoples such as the East Timorese. Mr Portillo should take the lead from Mr Major, not the blinkered lobby of the arms salesmen over Hawk. LLEW SMITH MP (Blunham Gwent, Lab) House of Commons London SW17

### Adriatic bathing still pure delight

Sir: I like Mrs Bertram of Cambridge (letter, 16 October), was born and brought up in Trieste, Italy - unlike Mrs Bertram, I and my family still go there every summer to enjoy good healthy swimming.

The bacterial content of the sea water is measured every day, published in the local paper and announced on the local radio - no one as far as I know has ever become ill after swimming in the Gulf of Trieste.

In the northern part of the Adriatic the sea is clean and healthy and it supports a lot of sea life.

In Trieste we have a WWF marine reserve. Grado, only a few miles away, which has the record of the cleanest sea in Italy. MARIA FAVRETTO MILLARD Riccione, Surrey

### Assessing the risks of war

Sir: Peter Hennessy ("The Secret Service, Open to Question", 15 October) is curiously old-fashioned in his approach to intelligence.

The most serious threats faced by this country and our allies over the next decades will almost certainly be the consequence of conflict due to rising ethnic and religious tensions and - as spelt out in your special supplement on the same day - overpopulation, poverty and breakdown of essential ecological support systems.

These are almost completely ignored as "too difficult" by the Whitehall intelligence machinery. Hence the proposal which a number of us have been making for the creation of a non-military global risk assessment unit in the Cabinet Office.

This would focus broader-based international threat assessment within government, while also publishing regular reports to inform public opinion. The cost would be very small, about £1m to £2m a year.

Peter Hennessy may also like to ponder Fukuyama's argument in *The End of History* that the best deterrent to wars in the post-Cold War world is the promotion of democracy worldwide, not better spying.

JOHN GORDON London N6 The writer is a former member of the diplomatic service

### Happy birthday Adam, age 6,000

Sir: Adam's 6,000th birthday falls tomorrow. John Lightfoot, who was vice-chancellor of the University of Cambridge, built on the genealogical scholarship of Archbishop James Ussher (*Sacred Chronology*, 1620) and concluded that Adam was created at 9am on Sunday 23 October, 4004 BC. Perhaps *The Independent* would like to mark this anniversary with a front-page reproduction of God zapping Adam on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Adam's children are clearly getting better informed. We should celebrate 23 October perennially as Science Day. DAVID MANSFIELD Lochwinnoch, Renfrewshire

### Early skateboard

Sir: I read that Andrew Baker, and perhaps many of your readers, are interested to know of the earliest skateboard ("On the Boards", Magazine 19 October).

It seemed to me when I arrived in London in 1950 that the skateboard, albeit in a primitive state, was already in general use by boys from nine to 15 or so. It consisted of a short plank with two cross-pieces nailed to it. On the four ends of the cross-pieces were fixed ball or roller bearings discarded from old cars etc.

These contrivances made an ungodly rattle as they were propelled down the pavements by their young owners. MARTIN MOTTTRAM Salisbury, Wiltshire

### Duress a defence for jailed witness

Sir: The decision of a judge to jail a victim of violent crime because she was too terrified to testify in a case against her alleged assailant ("Woman jailed for contempt will appeal", 15 October) is plainly ridiculous. It is also legally questionable.

In an earlier case with strikingly similar facts - *R v Hudson and Taylor* [1971] 2 QB 202 - the Court of Appeal confirmed that duress is a defence to virtually all crimes. It is certainly a defence to a charge of contempt of court, for which Sarah Holt and another female witness were jailed last week. It should have been obvious to the trial judge that the silence of the women resulted from terror not from perversity or contempt.

Official figures released last month show that violent crime rose by 10 per cent to 331,000 offences in the year to June, the largest rise for eight years. Multitudinous policies might feature in any intelligent discussion about how to deal with this social menace, but jailing intimidated victims is not among them.

Dr GARY SLAPPER The Law School, Staffordshire University Stoke-on-Trent

### What Wigan worries about

Sir: I read Polly Toynbee's piece on the Tories in Bournemouth ("Schism, here we come!", 11 October) with wry amusement. I'm afraid she got herself into a muddle.

Wigan people certainly don't believe that Europe is the only political issue. As I told Polly, their big worry is crime - especially the thuggery, car crime and vandalism that spoils life in many towns. Wiganers are delighted that the Conservatives are meeting these worries with "zero tolerance".

Describing Wigan as a "no hope seat" also shows a touch of Home Counties snobbery. Wigan is full of hope. Tourism, golf courses, retail parks, computer centres and ever-expanding executive housing estates - Wigan's got them all. Now that's really something that Miss Toynbee should get excited about. MARK LOVEDAY Conservative prospective parliamentary candidate for Wigan, Lancashire

### Maltese orphans

Sir: R G J M Earl (Letters, 25 September) alleges that when in Malta during the war, "the late Dr Boffa showed me an orphanage which he assured me was reserved solely for the children of priests". There has never been such an orphanage. Your correspondent's allegation is completely unfounded. It definitely does not do justice to the orphanages set up and run by priests with great sacrifice and dedication.

C BUTTIGIEG Public Relations Officer Archbishop's Curia Floriana, Malta

### Going for gold

Sir: Why is it a dreadful thing to seek to buy an individual MP for a few hundred pounds but a jolly exciting innovation to seek to buy a whole new political party for a few million pounds? TOM SARGENT Bo'ness, West Lothian

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk.

E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



## essay

After 20 years in Britain, Bill Bryson finds himself mystified by an America consumed by anger and envy – yet strangely indifferent to this year's presidential campaign



# I don't understand my country

**T**hanover, New Hampshire on Wicker, the former *New York Times* columnist and a thoughtful and perceptive analyst of American affairs, recently spoke at the local college here and I went along to hear him. I went because I had been asked to divine the mood of the electorate, and I was hoping to appropriate some of his thoughts on the matter, not having found any myself.

Wicker has been closely watching American elections for more than half a century and he said that he had never seen one quite as irrelevant, quite as inattentive to the real issues, as this one.

He was, of course, quite right. You would scarcely guess from this election campaign that America has some serious problems – indeed, pretty much leads the developed world – with regard to issues of race, violent crime, homelessness, economic disparities, imprisonment, illiteracy, health care, low savings rates, and a great deal else.

Wicker talked a little about several of these matters, but didn't really touch on anything you could call a mood. He appeared to be a Clinton man, but listlessly.

That same night I had dinner

with some wealthy Republicans who conceded, after a couple of bottles of Médoc, that they didn't have any real fondness for Dole, didn't for a moment believe he could deliver his vaunted 16 per cent tax cut without unsettling the economy, and didn't for a moment think he did either. They would vote for him, but listlessly.

And so it has been nearly everywhere. If there is an American out there with anything approaching a strong feeling about either candidate, I have yet to find him. Even Bob Dole, who has the pleasingly disconcerting habit of referring to himself in the third person, as if he isn't actually there, often seems as if, well, he isn't actually there. It is striking that the longer the campaign goes on without any kind of hopeful signs for Dole, the happier he looks.

This is not perhaps such a bad thing. The election campaign could have been more interesting, to be sure, but it also could have been a lot more scary. To begin with, the Republican nominee could very well have been Pat Buchanan – a man who, let us never forget, once described Adolf Hitler as "an individual of great courage [and] extraordinary gifts", characterised Aids as a form of natural retribution for unnatural

acts, and praised South Africa under apartheid as "an outpost of Western empire and Western civilisation". Here is a man, in short, who sounds as if his speeches ought to be delivered by torchlight.

Buchanan won the New Hampshire primary. He could easily have gone all the way. If Bob Dole does nothing else – and often in this campaign, that has appeared to be his strategy – he has saved his party and the rest of the world from the unenviable prospect of Pat Buchanan as the Republican nominee for president.

All of this is good news for the irrepressible Bill Clinton. What an extraordinary politician. This is a man among whose lesser problems – his lesser problems – is that he stands accused of having deprived one Paula Jones of her civil rights by asking her for oral sex in a Little Rock hotel room in 1991.

Surely there has never been a luckier man. He is lucky that the American media don't know what to do – are literally paralysed with uncertainty – when the words "President of the United States" and "genitalia" threaten to find some sort of natural proximity. He is lucky with the economy, which is positively rosy. He is lucky beyond belief

that Dole has not blasted away at his doughy character. He is even lucky that the jokes of TV chat show people are so incredibly harmless and lame.

Here, for instance, is David Letterman on the news that the White House had improperly examined FBI files on 340 people: "They're saying the whole thing is a mistake. They say ... it was a typographical error. Clinton was not ordering more files. Clinton was ordering more frites."

And here is Jay Leno on Clinton's position on homosexual marriages: "Clinton's really confused on this issue. See, he thinks that same-sex marriage is having sex with the same partner you're married to."

(Oh, stop, you guys. My sides are aching.)

If it is not easy to discern any kind of mood in America at the moment, it isn't because people haven't been looking. The nation abounds with books with titles like *Middle Class Dreams: The Politics and Power of the New American Majority* and *The Inheritance: How Three Families and America Moved from Roosevelt to Reagan and Beyond*. This latter devotes 464 pages – the scale of, say, a Mario Puzo novel – to examining how three anonymous and, it would seem, totally uninteresting people abandoned their Democratic roots and became conservatives.

Most of these books are dull, weighty, and dreadfully earnest, and they sell in vast numbers. What is notable about them is that nearly all were begun at a time when Newt Gingrich, the House speaker, was the most popular politician in the United States and published at a time when he has become the most despised – a remarkable turnaround foreseen by no one. The fact is that politics in America are so wildly erratic these days

that it is impossible to say what is happening.

How do you explain, for instance, in a nation so powerfully rooted to fundamental values like godliness, patriotism, moral probity, and family fealty that the electorate is about to reject a solid, conservative, war-hero Republican in favour of a slick Democrat with a roving eye and elastic scruples?

No wonder people are confused. And, as often with confused people, they are angry. Americans are angry about everything and nothing. I have never known a period of such peevishness in my native land. Resentment has become the guiding sentiment for millions. "Zero tolerance" is the watchword. If there is the slightest chance that anyone anywhere has enjoyed a privilege not enjoyed or appreciated by, say, a factory worker in Skokie, Illinois, you can be sure that that privilege has recently been revoked.

**C**onsider the matter of Pell grants. For years, these little-known disbursements enabled prisoners to acquire a college education. Although it has been shown that such programmes cut recidivism rates to about 13 per cent (against about 60 per cent for non-educated prisoners), and although prisoners accounted for only \$35m of the \$6bn total cost of the Pell programme, Congress stopped it last year when Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas complained that "honest and hard-working people are being elbowed out by criminals."

In fact, because Pell is an entitlement programme – that is, one that provides grants to all eligible applicants, not only the most deserving – no one, whether prisoner or free, had ever been denied Pell grant

funds. But never mind. Sense is not the point here.

Texas, meanwhile, hammed weightlifting in prison – too fun! – while the governor of Alabama reinstituted chain gangs, ordered the importation of rocks to give them something to hammer away at, and sent hulkdozers to plough up prisoners' vegetable gardens.

Or consider drugs. The minimum mandatory federal sentence for possession of a single tab of LSD is now 10 years. Never mind that perhaps you didn't even know it was LSD, that a stranger thrust it upon you when he saw the police coming through the window. Never mind that you are 19 years old, of previous good character and that this will ruin your life. There are no excuses. We are zero tolerant.

Consider immigrants. In 1994, Californians voted overwhelmingly for a bill called Proposition 187, designed to deny health and education services to illegal immigrants and their children. Governor Pete Wilson, the man behind the proposition (and who, according to *The Los Angeles Times*, may once have employed an illegal immigrant maid himself), immediately directed state health authorities to stop providing pre-natal care to illegal immigrants – in effect, told undocumented immigrant women to go and have their babies on park benches. (The proposition has since been stalled in the courts.)

In the second Presidential debate, Bob Dole said, "This is America. No one is going to go without food or health care." Actually that is not so. President Clinton just last month signed a bill denying Medicaid benefits even to legal immigrants.

Consider the poor, who receive only 12 per cent of total discretionary spending in

America, but are being required to absorb 60 per cent of the latest round of federal budget cuts. I could go on and on – about affirmative action programmes, about funding for inner cities, about welfare.

I can't pretend to guess what goes on in people's heads these days – whether they think the less privileged have been given an unfair leg-up and that it's time to level the playing field, whether they are so angry that they simply want somebody else to suffer for a while, whether they think these changes will really bring solutions rather than just much greater problems later.

One factor that makes this scatter-gun hostility more interesting, more perplexing, and indubitably more American is that it is frequently accompanied by a large dose of paranoia. People have taken to seeing conspiracies in almost everything. In Tennessee, for instance, religious fundamentalists are endeavouring to give the teaching of evolution in state schools (proving yet again that the danger for Tennesseans is not so much that they may be descended from apes as overtaken by them).

The striking thing about the debate there is that most creationists don't merely believe that the evolutionists are wrong, the victims of a sincere but misguided attachment to Darwinian theory, but that they are engaged in a manipulative, large-scale, carefully orchestrated campaign to subvert the word of God. It is not enough, you see, that your opponents might disagree with you. They must be out to get you. All over the country there are well-armed groups of survivalists who have no doubt that the United States government has become the tool of a sinister but

amorphous entity known by Buchanan adherents as the New World Order, and that it is only a matter of time before we are engaged in civil war.

In California, meanwhile, up to 2,000 people took to the streets to demonstrate recently after a rumour swept through the black community that the CIA had introduced crack cocaine to the streets of south-central Los Angeles in the early Eighties as a way of funding Nicaraguan Contra rebels while simultaneously keeping blacks in a deprived and vulnerable state. "Even though there is no conclusive evidence the story ... is true," wrote *The Boston Globe*, "blacks here said they almost unanimously believe it."

**T**his is, in a word, a seriously polarised nation with a quite astonishing array of simmering problems.

However, let us not lose perspective. America has been for a very long time a seriously polarised nation with a quite astonishing array of simmering problems, and it hasn't fallen apart yet. It remains the wealthiest and most productive nation on earth and, whatever the common perceptions may be, it is getting wealthier all the time. In the past decade alone the economy expanded by 28 per cent. If the country is failing to deal generously or imaginatively with its ills, it isn't because it is worse off than it was 10 years ago.

So why, if people feel so strongly about so much, are they so indifferent to the campaign? I wish I could tell you. This is my first election in 20 years, and things have changed beyond my ability to understand them. When I left America in the Seventies, the country was just emerging from a lively and impassioned decade. Campaigns were full of hipness; often they demonstrated. The war in Vietnam, civil rights, Kent State, Watergate – all these were still in the air. There was a sense of being on the edge of a period of momentous change.

All that has vanished. Now, even at an elite eastern university such as Dartmouth, here in Hanover, the students nearly all look as if they're on their way to an Osmonds concert and seem unconcerned by thoughts of a wider, more troubled world. It is as if the nation's problems have plodded inexorably onwards while the inhabitants have scampered backwards towards a safer, simpler age.

That's one thing you have to like about Bill Clinton. He appears to be almost the only person in America who is genuinely looking forward to the new millennium. And here's an interesting consideration. Assuming Clinton wins, it will be the first time in his career that he will not be thinking about re-election. Since he cannot stand again, it is entirely probable that his thoughts will turn to posterity. A Bill Clinton who is able to focus his abundant energies and intelligence on his legacy rather than his next campaign might just be an impressive sight. It will certainly be worth watching.

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## The funny thing about a good parody...



Miles Kingdon

*I think that I shall never see A poem lovely as a tree: In fact, until the billboards fall, I'll never see a tree at all.*

**S**o wrote Ogden Nash, in a verse that caught my attention when I was a teenager, for at least three reasons. First, I didn't know what a billboard was and had to look it up and find out it was the American word for an advertising hoarding, or what we would now call a prime poster site.

Second, I didn't realise till that moment that not all Americans were mad keos for Americanisation, and that some preferred trees to posters. Later I was to discover Americans who even preferred real cooking to McDonald's hamburgers. Third, it was obvious that Nash was parodying some well-known verse when he said "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree..." but it was a poem that I had never come across. Yet in a way that didn't really matter. It is one of the strange properties of good parody that you can deduce from it what the original was like even if you have never read it. My father, for instance, was in the habit of declaiming pieces of parody which I found funny even though I had no idea what the original was, such as the one that started:

*It was Christmas Day in the mortuary, The coldest day in the year, When a corpse sat up and suddenly said, It's bloody cold in here! Then in came the mortuary-keeper,*

*His face all aflame with beer, Took one look at him and said,*

*You can't do that there 'ere! It wasn't till years later that I realised that this was a parody of all those tearful ballads with titles like, "It was Christmas Day in the Workhouse", but even at the age of eight or nine I knew that my father hadn't made it up, and that whoever he had got it from hadn't made it up, and that somewhere there was an Urtext. Similarly, when my father declaimed:*

*The boy stood on the burning deck, His pockets full of bombs, When one went off, the lot went off And left him in his corns* I knew that he had left a lot unsaid. First of all, I didn't know what corns were, and my father had to explain painstakingly that combinations were another name for long joints. Then, because nobody in our house had any long joints, he had to explain painstakingly the nature and purpose of long underwear. After which he had to explain that there was a very sad poem which began:

*The boy stood on the burning deck*

*Whence all but he had fled The flame that lit the battle's wreck Shone round him o'er the dead*

Explaining parodies to me usually took longer than reciting them, which may be why he gave up explaining them after a while. For instance, he never explained to me the origin of another parody which he used to happily produce when I was off to school again:

*There is a happy land, far far away*

*Where they have ham and eggs, Three times a day,*

*Oh, how those boys do yell When they hear the breakfast bell!*

*Oh how those eggs do smell Three times a day!*

I think it may be based on a hymn of the same opening line, but I never sang that hymn in my church-going days, so I am not likely to now. No matter. Now that my father is dead, and I am an orphan, I have belatedly started looking up the sources of his parodies, and have discovered that Mrs Hemans, who wrote "The

Boy Stood on the Burning Deck" also wrote the poem that starts "The stately homes of England". I have also discovered from an old *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations* that it was Joyce Kilmer (1898-1918) who wrote "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree" though I have not the faintest idea who Joyce Kilmer was or what else she did in her short life.

In fact, when I sat down this morning I had no intention of saying anything about poetry and parody. It was billboards I wanted to talk about. Especially one billboard I saw last week. It happened to have to drive across England and back which meant I was exposed to a wider selection of posters than usual, and kept seeing one which began, in big letters, "I something like this:"

"Alexander the Great already cooquere by the age of 25. Just had Perhaps we'd Europe compare notes... tomorrow, bright telling you n on that one, is one adve I don't mind worries me w that this using claim that horribly."



## Fear of Germany drives the Goldsmith gang

We can, at least, rehabilitate Arthur Balfour. The millionaire zoo keeper and eugenicist John Aspinall committed a gross injustice to poor old Balfour in his bizarre speech to the Referendum Party conference at the weekend. It went unnoticed among the more eye-catching passages, worthy of the old League of Empire Loyalists, about the nature of true English stock. But "Aspers" claimed that Balfour had said that on the issue of tariff reform he would rather consult his valet than the British people. What Balfour actually said was that he would rather consult his valet than the Conservative Party conference. A very different – and much more admirable – sentiment.

It's an interesting mistake, because it helped to reinforce the party's pitch that most professional politicians are contemptible elitists and that it is Sir James Goldsmith who is a true man of the people. Nowhere was this more apparent than in Sir James's own speech, in which he put himself proudly at the head of a popular army ready to fight for the liberation of the "peoples of Europe" from the yoke of Eurotyranny. In doing so, Sir James spent quite a lot of time dissecting the anti-democratic contempt of Hegel, whom he called "the philosophical father

Donald Macintyre

**Sir James's Referendum Party friends let slip a secret obsession that blinds them to European realities**

of the German constitutional tradition". Hegel, he implied, would have been well pleased with the German-dominated EU. Indeed, the conference was heavily laden with phobias, real or pretended, about Germany's atavistic goal of dominating Europe once again – and France's weakness in "collaborating" with it.

This matters, less because it may help to give Sir James a few thousand more votes on polling day, but because it exposes, in extreme and eccentric form, the contradictions in British attitudes – mainly, but not exclusively, on the right – to Germany and its modern political class. After all, even the ravings of "Aspers" look less utterly unorthodox when you consider that the late Nicholas Ridley, in the *Spectator* interview which triggered his fall from the Cabinet, said not only that the single currency was a "German racket designed to take over the whole of Europe", but in answer to the question of whether Helmut Kohl was not preferable to Adolf Hitler, replied: "I am not sure I wouldn't rather have the shelter and the chance to fight back than simply be taken over by economics." The vocabulary of Euro-scepticism – sometimes in public, but more frequently in private – is still laced with satirical imagery of this kind.

What's wearisome about this demonic model of German domination through the EU is that it is wilfully used by politicians who are intelligent enough to know that Helmut Kohl's purpose, since he became a committed European in his teens, has been precisely the opposite. That doesn't in itself make European integration right for Germany, any more than

it does for the UK. But it impoverishes the debate about Europe in Britain – to an extent impossible in France – to ignore the simple fact that Kohl's entire foreign policy has been devoted to the proposition that a Germany bound to its EU partners is a Germany that will not seek again to overrun, by economic or military means, the rest of Europe. Whatever its other merits and demerits, Emm isn't an instrument of German domination. Rather, it is the price she is prepared to pay for political union. If you doubt it, ask the Bundesbank.

This is one reason why some of the most prominent politicians who fought in the war were and are pro-European – Heath, Whitelaw and, a little less consistently, Denis Healey. Margaret Thatcher hasn't, of course, shared that view, though she is of the same generation. But even she, while thinking they were wrong, recognised in her memoirs that "so many Germans want to see Germany locked into a federal Europe".

What's more she, at least, was consistent, in that she had an alternative means of containing German might, which was to deny it reunification. Indeed, she regarded reunification as her one great failure of foreign policy. In her view a divided Germany would have weakened, among other things, the argument that a closely integrated EU was needed "to tie down Gulliver".

What is much less obvious is what the current Kohl-bashing Euro-sceptics think about a reunified Germany in a much looser EU, or in no EU at all. Do they buy the doubtful proposition that in the long term, Germany, as a now mature democracy, would be less rather than more of an economic threat? Or do some of them believe that Kohl's determination to lock Bonn into the EU reflects a now obsolete sense of guilt about the war, and rather than the prospect of a reunified Germany free-standing as a proud nation state, unshackled by the rest of Europe?

As it happens, I would not put this latter view past some of the international and polyglot followers of Sir James or even some Tory individualists like Alan Clark. But it looks as though many Euro-sceptics haven't really thought about it all.

Which is part of the problem. The future of Germany dominates every item, every nuance of Britain's agonies over the EU. Yet it remains the least seriously or rationally debated issue in British foreign policy. John Major made a brave attempt in his "Heart of Europe" speech in 1991 to provide a context for better Anglo-German understanding. Since then there has been very little, at least from him. As his predecessor pointed out, there's a tendency to see what she insisted on calling the "German problem" as "something too delicate for well-brought-up politicians to discuss. This always seemed to me a mistake." Amen at least to that.

## Why is Black Rod the only black here?

by Ian Hamilton

The Silly Season is upon us. England is opening its Parliament tomorrow. If someone would give the English the gift to see their posturings as others see them, then perhaps they might realise how silly their annual state occupation of the telly has become.

They are not a stupid nation. It may simply never have occurred to them that their ancient ceremonies are driving a wedge between the rulers and the ruled. England is now a multiracial nation, but you wouldn't think so to watch their ceremonies. The ancient rituals of India or Pakistan play no part, to take but two nations of those whose people are now the heart of England.

Official England considers the traditions of no other ethnic group than those of the *rosbifs*. They use ceremonialism from a time when Parliament was the bawling for ignorant squires, each, as Walpole said, with his price. Each was determined to be paid it before he spoke for England, venal swine that they were. To follow the past of only one of the tribes of England must be peculiarly offensive to those other, and greater, civilisations who have come to live there.

Let me, as a Scot, a foreigner who always wishes England well, try to describe your ceremonial to you. I have an unjaundiced eye. Remember that I, too, am a member of the United Kingdom, even if it's something I'd rather not admit to on most occasions.

The State Opening of Parliament starts with an old lady being dragged through the streets of London behind horses. Everything in this absurd ceremony happens in London. Tribe-England has applied no imagination whatsoever to finding a way for other parts of the country to participate. It all happens in enclosed, incestuous London Town, and be damned to everyone else.

The horses stop. The old lady alights. We are now at the Palace of Westminster, the quaint name given to the home of democracy. But democracy is having time off. All this has nothing to do with ordinary people, who are paying for this mummery. Tomorrow, Parliament will not be passing Acts: Parliament itself will be one big act.

It is an act with a cast of hundreds. Not being privy to all the jobs and jobbery, I can only come some of the principal



Let me as a Scot, a foreigner who always wishes England well, try to describe your state opening ceremonial to you ...

parts. There are gentlemen ushers, and black rods and white rods and silver rods – and perhaps the odd bewildered plumbrod who has got there by mistake, the security among all this palaver being belittled. There are equestrians, and footmen so proud of being footmen that if they bowed any deeper

all the beer would fall out. There are the ladies in waiting, some of whom, by the look of them, have been waiting for a long, long time. Among these are the ladies of the bedchamber and the women of the bedchamber, the distinction between the two being terribly important. The importance is

not much discussed in Wolverhampton or Motherwell. How does one become a lady of the bedchamber, or even a woman? No such job has ever been advertised in the *Oban* job centre. If it were, the clerk would get a slap round the chops. Scotswomen have their

But stop! The old woman has climbed the stairs. She is sitting in a high chair. She is taking her glasses out of her handbag. The show is about to begin.

Elsewhere, the function is unfolding in a different fashion. Enter a comedian called Black Rod. No! He's not a Caribbean called Rodney. Despite the multiracial nature of modern English society, there is not a black face in be seen. This is a white English tribal ritual.

Black Rod, who, poor bugger, is cast as the fall guy, knocks on a door. The door is opened, and then slammed in his face. But not for long. Behind the door, pinkie linked with pinkie, are our chaps, the ones we elected. As animals into the ark they proceed two by two to the Upper Chamber.

Now comes the really funny turn. My old friend James Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, no longer an athlete – in fact, a bit dodderly – mounts the stairs and gives the old lady a sheaf of papers.

Wait for it! This is comedy: James has to walk backwards down the stairs. There are walk-on parts, and speaking parts, and being the hind-legs-of-the-donkey parts, but the Lord Chancellor of England's walking-backwards-down-the-stairs part is unique in all theatre. After that, the old lady reads the script and everyone goes home.

As a Scot I find this English tribal ritual excruciatingly funny. The Parliament that has now been opened is my Parliament as well as England's. We're there. Or supposed to be. Yet there are no Scottish benches in the chamber, and we are supposed to take part in the rituals of one of the tribes of England, the white English tribe.

What's Black Rod to me, or me to Black Rod? My countryfolk are Paisley's poor. Who are all these posh people? Are they paid? If so, how much? Even the time it's taken is time wasted. There are 10 non-controversial reforms on the shelves of the Scots Law Commission. They cannot be dealt with for lack of Parliamentary time.

But what makes me laugh above all is Westminster's claim to be a United Kingdom Parliament. What nonsense! What I have just described is one of the English tribes making a fool of itself, the white English *rosbif* tribe. It's they who make England always good for a laugh. With the state opening of Parliament, they never disappoint us.

## God meets the Old Devil

A memorial service for an atheist? Andrew Brown understands

"I'm an atheist, yes. But it's more that I hate Him" said Kingsley Amis, explaining his view of God to Yevtushenko. The story is in his memoirs, and it is given added piquancy by the fact that the novelist's work will be remembered at a service in St Martin's in the Fields in London this afternoon. Of all the people for the Church of England to commemorate, a man who boasts in his memoirs of hating God, and who wrote with extraordinary lucidity and savagery of his reasons for this hatred, ought perhaps to be fairly low down on the list of priorities. Yet perhaps it makes sense.

One reason for such a service lies in the deep respect that parts of the Church of England have for art, and especially for literature. Hardy and Housman both have their memorials in Westminster Abbey. Both were fairly dedicated enemies of religion: "Keep who will, and keep who can, these alien laws of God and man" wrote Housman. There is no trace of Christian hope or fear in his poems. He sees no damnation, only death.

Amis, who admired Housman, surpassed him, I think, in the detailed savagery of his detestation of God. There is something high-pitched and rhetorical about Housman. Even – especially – his restraint shows off. But Amis can manage the ordinary everyday unglamorous hatred of God, woven into the fabric of existence, alongside boredom and fear. Nowhere is this better done than in *The Green Man*, a ghost story in which Maurice Allingham, the alcoholic landlord of an ancient pub, becomes possessed by the spirit of an earlier owner, an Elizabethan alchemist and black magician. There's little supernatural activity in the book, and all of it, in the CIA phrase, deniable. "You're a good security phrase, deniable," God explains to Maurice at one stage. "What. You mean drunk and off my head and seeing things?" "Yes."

But the conversation the two men have, however deniable, has a terribly authentic ring. In the living room above the pub, in the long dead hours of an afternoon on a hazy day, God appears as a young man, well dressed, if anything a little too sleek. He only slips out of this character occasionally, when Maurice refills his

whisky, and bones clink against the glass. "You didn't have to do that," says Maurice, the sort of hypochondriac whose fear of illness cannot diminish or make manageable his terror of death. The young man replies that he did have to. Maurice must not, in their peasantries, forget who or what he really is. Yet for the most part, God is



Kingsley Amis on God: 'I hate him'

charming, if a little world-weary. You cannot imagine, he says, how difficult it is to resist the temptation to miracles – even a small one: a dinosaur appearing in the middle of the rush-hour traffic in Piccadilly Circus. But there are the rules of the game – the rules of the game, old man, as he explains when asked what to do about the suffering of children or of animals. This is grotesque in its manner.

In its matter, it is just about perfectly orthodox. Of course, Amis's God cuts out all the stuff about suffering being for the good of the sufferer, but so do most modern theologians.

They, too, explain it as part of the "rules of the game". God, it appears, could not make creatures who could freely love Him

without setting them in a world where they might be tortured to death. Besides, by the end of the novel, Maurice can see God's point. No matter how terrible eternity with Him may be, it is surely preferable to an eternity of being Maurice. The doctrine of sin could not be more succinctly stated. And even if the atheist is only wish-fulfillment, Maurice's wish to escape from himself rings true, perhaps, than a regiment of hours, or even the pleasure promised by St Thomas Aquinas, of watching the sufferings of the damned.

So perhaps the Church of England is right to celebrate such an acute theological thinker. Besides, what is taking place tomorrow is not, formally, a service, or even a celebration of the novelist, but a celebration of his work, which has some comfort for Christians. In the drunken, lecherous, God-fearing Maurice Allingham, the drunken, lecherous, God-loathing Kingsley Amis created a character who makes sin and redemption far more real and natural than they appear in the works of most professedly Christian novelists.

And yet. The Green Man is a genre novel, and largely forgotten now. I suspect that the theology in it was no more than the science in science fiction: a necessary scaffolding, and not the stage, still less the play itself. Much truer to Amis's beliefs was a jeering incredulity: God in one poem is told that three hours on the cross was nothing. Many have suffered more, and to less purpose. Next time, "get some time in".

Even this, however, may be more thought than is given to the matter by many people for whom vicars must find some words of condolence this week, treading the fine Christian line between truth and charity. "I think it's terribly like taking a parish funeral," said the Vicar of St Martin's, the Rev Nicholas Holtam, yesterday. Parish clergy are legally obliged to bury anyone, however bad or atheist. It is part of being the Church of England, and a part which even atheists might miss. The urge to mourn and celebrate survives the death of God; so does beauty. Kingsley Amis loved St Martin's in the Fields as a building. How generous of the church to lend its high windows to his memory.

## Why I switched to new Labour

The Government has forgotten that civilised societies require market forces to operate within a social context, defined and regulated to the ultimate benefit of all their citizens. As a consequence, 17 years of Conservative rule has created two nations. The rich have become much richer and the poor relatively poorer – 40 per cent of British people exist on income levels below the average wage – while directors of public utility companies shamelessly utilise what were public assets for private gain. Despite promises to the contrary, there have been 22 increases in taxation, public debt has doubled and public facilities in education, hospitals and housing are falling to new levels of insufficiency. The Government's claim to be the party of efficient economic management is exposed for the charade that it is.

Government inefficiencies, ministerial mistakes and political scandals – such as the ERM débacle, the Pergau Dam, defence sales to Iran and Iraq, mad cow disease, Gulf war syndrome and cash-for-questions – combine to show a lack of concern for morality, justice and humanity in public life. It seems incapable of recognising that the systems of government evolved to manage a hierarchical 19th-century imperial power are wholly inappropriate for the management of a modern, participative industrial democracy.

By weakening local government, refusing to accept limited devolution in Scotland and Wales, and failing to recognise

Seventeen years of Conservative rule have produced two nations

the diminished power of the nation state within an increasingly interdependent world economy, the Government has forfeited any claim to be capable of leading the UK into the 21st century. Unrestrained by a largely irrelevant and unrepresentative Parliament, individual ministers have ceased to recognise or serve the public interest. Yet they remain determined to hang on to office at any price. Their cynical contempt for the public has contributed in no small measure to the general culture of selfishness and disrespect which exists in Britain today. It really is time for a change. Although they may win some seats in the South-west, the Liberal Democrats cannot defeat the Government in a general election. In any event, the public good requires opinion formers across the political spectrum to vote for change. Only new Labour has the combination of moral purpose and potential electoral support nationally to form a government committed to change.

Under Tony Blair's leadership the Labour Party has the vision to implement the reforms necessary to secure a prosperous future for all our people. My decision to join the Labour Party is prompted by Tony Blair's determination to pursue the constitutional reform, efficient economic management and fairer social provision that alone can restore One Nation.

Christopher Brocklebank-Fowler

"The man is a national treasure"

(What Doctors Don't Tell You)

## IRRITABLE BOWEL SYNDROME?

Helpful Advice From Dr Vernon Coleman

If you suffer from Irritable Bowel Syndrome you will know only too well how this painful disorder can ruin your life. I used to suffer terribly from IBS, and had all the usual symptoms (pain, wind etc) but conquered the problem using a simple, two-step control programme. Since then my symptoms have virtually disappeared and the quality of my life has improved beyond measure. Now you can share the information that gave me back a normal life. I have produced a book called "Relief from IBS" that explains the methods I used to solve my IBS problem. The advice is written in an easy-to-follow style and includes a series of simple, practical guidelines designed to help you deal with your IBS in the same way that I dealt with mine. The topics covered include:

- Causes and symptoms • How to look after your digestive system • Relief from wind • Tips on how to cope with stress • Foods that can make things worse

Having suffered from IBS for several years I know what a devastating effect it can have on your life and I do hope my book will be able to help you. You can try my advice without risk – if you don't find the book helpful then simply return it to me within 28 days of receipt for a full refund. As a bonus we will also send you a valuable FREE book worth £9.95 when you order. The contents of your free book include: "Should you get a second opinion?", "How to get the best out of your doctor", "How to cope in an emergency", "How to live to 100", "Improve your life by changing your diet", "How to protect yourself against viruses" and much, much more! To order your copy of my book Relief from IBS send a cheque or postal order (payable to Publishing House) for £9.95 to IBS Book Offer, Sales Office IN48, Publishing House, Trinity Place, Barnstaple, Devon EX32 9HJ. Post and packing is FREE! For credit card sales please ring (01271) 328892. Your book will be sent to you within 28 days. Reading this book could help solve your IBS problem for good – and remember, you have nothing to lose but your symptoms. Your free book is yours to keep whatever you decide.

"His advice is optimistic and enthusiastic" (The British Medical Journal)

"Dr Vernon Coleman is one of our most enlightened, trenchant and sensible dispensers of medical advice" (The Observer)

Published by The European Medical Journal



## OFT to call for referral of Bass bid for Tetley

John Shepherd  
Business News Editor

The Office of Fair Trading is to recommend that the Government refer the proposed takeover of Carlsberg-Tetley by Bass to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Senior officials at the OFT are applying the finishing touches to a report that will call for a full MMC investigation, and will probably pass their recommendation to the Department of Trade and Industry of its views in the next fortnight.

The £200m merger would create a business with 38 per cent of the beer market and more than 4,000 pubs, making it by far the country's biggest brewer ahead of Scottish & Newcastle.

Representatives from Allied Dmeco, half owner of Carlsberg-Tetley, are understood to have been called to a meeting with officials at the OFT in the last week, at which they were told privately that the bid should be referred. A similar meeting to the same effect has apparently been held with Bass representatives.

Moreover, a source said yesterday that the OFT might even bring forward the meeting of the Mergers Panel - which comprises other Whitehall departments - at which John Bridgeman, Director of Fair Trading, will finally make up his mind and subsequently inform the DTI about the OFT's views.

The OFT's insistence on the deal being referred will surprise City analysts, many of whom firmly believe that the takeover will be nodded through with a few minor undertakings - such as the sale of some pubs, or the putting out to tender of some beer supply contracts.

Shares in Bass have recovered strongly over the last few weeks following the inevitable fallout that occurred when the bid was announced.

Some observers believe that the OFT is still smarting from the DTI's clearance of last year's takeover of Courage that propelled Scottish & Newcastle Breweries into pole position in UK brewing with a 30 per cent-plus share of the market. Additionally, the OFT is

understood to be keen to take stock of events in the industry since the implementation of the Beer Orders in 1992 and particularly the potential consequences of Bass's dominant market share were it allowed to buy Carlsberg-Tetley.

One leading analyst said yesterday: "Consolidation was the logical conclusion of the Beer Orders, and it makes significant sense for the OFT to refer the biggest deal that there will be."

Not only is the OFT concerned about the competitive issues but it is, unusually, questioning the commercial logic of the Bass deal to buy Carlsberg-Tetley. This marks a radical change by the OFT in reviewing mergers. Told about this shift, one industry observer said yesterday: "From now on we will never know where we are with the competition authorities."

The OFT's investigation since the bid was formally announced in August has been unusually widespread - canvassing the views of every party from the big brewers to small beer clubs in towns. "Everyone that is conceivably involved in the industry has been consulted. If the OFT thinks that a deal is OK, then there will be minimal consultation," a source said.

While Mr Bridgeman has, according to sources, yet to see the full report from senior OFT officials about the Bass deal, he is more than aware that the DTI, both under the successive control of Michael Heseltine and Ian Lang, has ridden roughshod over the competition authority's recommendations on numerous occasions in recent years.

Even if the DTI does not refer the bid, then the OFT can still push its case by calling for an investigation into the whole brewing and pubs industry. This has happened with the travel industry twice since the OFT picked her, but was denied an investigation into the planned takeover by Airtours for Owners Abroad a couple of years ago. Recent reports suggest that the OFT has secured agreement from tour operators - mainly over the way they operate their travel agencies - that will allow them to escape an MMC reference.

Docklands firms see light at the end of the tunnel as £2.5bn Jubilee Line extension takes shape



City bankers and businessmen got a taste yesterday of what the journey to work will be like once the £2.5bn extension of the Jubilee line to Canary Wharf in London's Docklands is completed in 1999. To mark the construction of the tunnels that will link docklands to the City, the heads of six companies based at Canary Wharf were invited on a 20m walk under the Thames. Among those making the trip on foot were Sir David Walker, chairman of Morgan Stanley, Sir Peter Middleton, chairman of BZW which moves in next year, David Vaughan, vice-president of Credit Suisse First Boston, David Alexander, legal director of Tazoco and Colette Bowe, chief executive of the Personal Investment Authority. Also in attendance were Hugh Doherty, London Underground's project director, and Michael Pickard, chairman of the London Docklands Development Corporation. The Jubilee Line extension will run from Green Park to Canning Town and will carry an estimated 80 million passengers a year - by train, not on foot.

Photo: Philip Meech

## Pearson soars on bid rumours

Matthew Horsman  
Media Editor

Shares in Pearson, the media conglomerate, soared yesterday on speculation that it had once again become a takeover target and that it was contemplating breaking itself up to see off potential predators.

Reports that BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster owned 40 per cent by Rupert Murdoch, was considering a bid helped push the shares sharply higher in morning trading, hitting 745p at one point, a new high. By the end of the day, the price had moderated to 730p, still 33.5 ahead, as the market interpreted comments made by Sam Chisholm, chief executive, as indicating a bid was not imminent.

Pearson itself discounted the likelihood of a hostile approach, but analysts said BSkyB could easily afford Pearson, which might cost between £5bn and

£6bn to win. The prime target of BSkyB's affections was believed to be the television subsidiary, run by Greg Dyke, which takes in Thames Television, Grundy Worldwide and SelectTV, the makers of *Birds of a Feather*. The rest of Pearson's sprawling holdings would be sold off.

"BSkyB has the distribution, but needs more original programming," Anthony de Larrinaga, analyst at Panmure Gordon, said. "Pearson Television has no real distribution."

Pearson has a 24 per cent stake in Channel 5, the planned fifth terrestrial channel. But the programming budget of just £110m a year is unlikely to give the company much of a market for its programmes.

Several analysts suggested yesterday that BSkyB might just be "stalking the cage", in see if a new management team at Pearson might be persuaded to sell the television subsidiary.

Last week, Pearson announced the appointment of Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of the Economist Group, as its new group chief executive, replacing Frank Barlow, who is retiring.

Ms Scardino has said she has "no strategic prejudices", and that there would be no sacred cows. Some observers have already reached the conclusion that she could be willing to sanction the sale of the television business and Madame Tussauds, the attractions and theme park subsidiary, to concentrate on the publishing and electronic media assets, including Penguin, the Financial Times, Addison-Wesley-Longman, the educational publishing imprint and Mindscape, the company's CD-Rom and game cartridge manufacturer.

It is understood that several options for the company had already been considered by consultants and advisers prior to last week's announcement of Pearson's management succession.

Analysts said yesterday it was inevitable Pearson would move to restructure its businesses, whether or not a takeover bid materialised. They suggested Pearson had still not streamlined its management structure and its array of assets, despite a radical overhaul of managerial responsibilities earlier this year.

Meanwhile, it emerged last night that Dennis Stevenson, the newly appointed deputy chairman of Pearson, had been the choice of at least three executive directors for the position of chairman, a role he assumes in April. His supporters were David Bell, John Makinson, finance director, and Greg Dyke. It is also understood that the original shortlist for chief executive included Mr Makinson and at least two outsiders - Bob Phillips, the deputy director-general of the BBC and Archie Norman, chairman of Asda.

## Homes for sale at eight-year low as owners wait

Nic Ciccotti  
and Diane Coyle

The number of homes for sale in England and Wales has fallen to an eight-year low, prompting fears of a property famine as sellers wait for further price increases before placing their houses on the market.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors said the refusal of homeowners to put properties up for sale created a vicious circle because it meant they in turn could not find something suitable to buy.

The RICS report yesterday came as a separate survey said consumer confidence remained close to its highest level since 1988, due to optimism about general economic prospects. This news was taken well in the City, and the FTSE 100 share index reached a fresh record, closing 20 points up at 4,073.

Although the level of confidence has not changed during the month following a big jump in September, it remains high by past standards, according to the regular poll carried out for the European Commission by researchers GfK.

There was also an increase in the proportion saying they plan to buy a house or spend more on home improvements during the next 12 months.

The RICS survey said the number of properties for sale across the country was now third lower during the period compared with the previous three months.

Among the reasons given for waiting before putting a property up for sale is the continuing negative and insufficient equity in vendors' homes, making it hard for them to sell. Also, some owners are unwilling to sell because they are waiting for free shares from building societies' demutualisation plans.

A RICS spokesman said: "The scarcity is forcing up prices but it also means reasonably priced, desirable properties are being sold extremely quickly, giving the false impression that a 'boom' is imminent. One of the main reasons for homeowners' reluctance to put their properties on the market is their sometimes over-optimistic expectation of further price rises."

Consumers questioned for the EC poll this month were glum about prospects for their own personal finances but more optimistic about the economy in general. Respondents expect unemployment to fall further.

Figures due out tomorrow and Friday will be scrutinised for signs that the improving "feel-good" factor is being reflected in official economic statistics. While City analysts expect tomorrow's retail sales figures to show a drop during September following a bumper August, they expect them to show continuing strong year-on-year growth.

The estimate of third-quarter GDP due on Friday could turn out to be important for next week's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, Chancellor of the Exchequer, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England.

The Governor has made it clear he thinks the economy's strong growth means there is a significant risk of missing the inflation target.

## Labour pledge to monitor costs of PFI

Michael Harrison

A Labour government would introduce new controls to ensure that the Private Finance Initiative does not create huge spending commitments in future years that cannot be met.

Alistair Darling, shadow chief secretary to the Treasury, also pledged that Labour would make sure that the private sector was paid only for risk that was genuinely transferred out of the public sector when awarding projects.

Speaking yesterday at the annual conference of the Private Finance Panel, Mr Darling warned that the public would lose faith in the PFI if it came to be seen as an ingenious way of circumventing spending con-

trols at the taxpayers' expense. By getting the private sector to put up capital expenditure for road, rail and health projects and then paying it back through a stream of revenue payments in future years, the Government was creating formidable commitments for future generations which it was failing to monitor in a systematic way.

"The Government must put in place such controls immediately. If they don't we will," he said. "We cannot allow this country to sign up for commitments that it cannot reasonably afford. There have to be proper controls in place."

Mr Darling also said that while Labour strongly supported the PFI, there would be much greater emphasis on mak-



Revolutionary: Kenneth Clarke defended the PFI

ing a genuine partnership between the public and private sector: "It is not just about commissioning investment projects: it is about procuring services."

Earlier, the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, rejected Labour's criticisms of the initiative saying it was leading to a "revolution in the provision of public services" with £7bn of deals so far done. He dismissed suggestions that the PFI amounted to a "buy now, pay later" mechanism for funding public projects and defended the Government's target of signing £13bn worth of PFI projects by the end of 1998-99.

He also unveiled new guidelines on how investors could trade stakes in PFI projects.

Comment, page 19

## UK set for £700m Telekom bonanza

Chris Goddard  
Business Correspondent

British investors could be allocated more than £700m worth of shares in Europe's largest privatisation, the sell-off of Germany's state telephone company, Deutsche Telekom.

Details of the offer, disclosed yesterday, show UK investors will be awarded 8-12 per cent of the 500 million shares available. The British allocation is likely to be second only in scale to that of the USA and Canada combined.

The vast majority of the shares destined for UK investors will go to institutions. Sources suggested the interest by retail investors in Britain, or "Sids", would probably be limited. The final allocation depends on the size of bids received during the institutional bookbuilding process which begins today.

However, in Germany the privatisation has attracted huge interest of the kind seen during the first British privatisations in the mid-Eighties and looks set to be heavily oversubscribed. When the deadline for applications from private investors expired on 11 October, 3 million individuals had registered. Half the small investors applying had not held shares before.

Organisers also revealed that after vetting 3.5 million applications received they discovered that 500,000 had been made twice. UK accountants Price Waterhouse have been engaged to check that no small investors have profited more than once. Individuals in Germany will get a small discount of DM0.5 (20p) a share up to a maximum of 300 shares.

Deutsche said the indicative price range for the shares was DM25-DM 30 a share, valuing the 20 per cent of the company being sold in the first phase at more than DM12.5bn.

STOCK MARKETS					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change(%)	1996 High	1996 Low
FTSE 100	4073.10	+20.00	+0.5	4073.10	3632.30
FTSE 250	4449.40	-0.70	-0.0	4568.60	4016.30
FTSE 350	2022.10	+7.80	+0.4	2022.10	1816.60
FTSE SmallCap	2193.32	-0.38	-0.0	2244.26	1954.06
FTSE All-Share	1994.54	+7.09	+0.4	1994.54	1791.95
New York	6109.51	+15.28	+0.3	6094.23	5032.94
Tokyo	21302.95	-309.35	-1.4	22666.80	19734.70
Hong Kong	closed			12510.05	10204.87

INTEREST RATES					
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	
1 Month	1 Year	3 Month	1 Month	1 Year	3 Month
5.88	6.43	7.60	5.88	6.43	7.60
5.25	5.99	6.49	5.25	5.99	6.49
0.41	0.53	2.75	0.41	0.53	2.75
3.06	3.09	5.99	3.06	3.09	5.99

CURRENCIES					
£/\$	£/DM	£/¥	Pound	Dollar	Yen
1.5905	0.6287	1.5790	1.5905	0.6287	1.5790
1.5920	0.6281	1.5810	1.5920	0.6281	1.5810
2.4433	-1.17%	2.1899	2.4433	-1.17%	2.1899
179.505	+0.132	157.618	179.505	+0.132	157.618
99.0	-0.3	93.5	99.0	-0.3	93.5

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Everybody knows that buying on the never-never always comes home to roost eventually, but who cares when it is your successor that is going to have to sort out the mess?

## Taxpayers to foot bill as PFI bonds spread risk

BZW, Lehman and Warburgs have obviously read the Chancellor's mind. His announcement yesterday setting out how investors will be able to buy and sell stakes in Private Finance Initiative projects will have come as no surprise to them. They've already beaten him to it. Drive down the A1(M) between Alconbury and Peterborough when it is finished, or take the Docklands Light Railway to Lewisham when it is built, and you will be travelling courtesy of transport schemes funded by PFI bonds.

BZW arranged the bond issue for the DLR extension and Lehman and Warburgs for Road Management Group, the Amec/Alfred McAlpine consortium that is upgrading the A1. The surprise, if there is one, is that it has taken this long for the City and Government to cotton on to such an obvious way of funding PFI projects.

In the case of the A1 and the DLR, bondholders get paid their coupon and ultimately their capital from the shadow tolls the Government hands over every time a car uses the road or a passenger buys a ticket. What next? PFI bonds securitised against the income stream generated every time a criminal gets banged up or a patient has their appendix whipped out? The funding side of the PFI is pretty much sorted out. If the sheer volume of bankers and accountants in attendance at yesterday's beano to celebrate the PFI's fourth birthday is any guide, there is no shortage of money. The problems lie rather on the supply side. For all Ken

Clarke's attempts to make the PFI user-friendly, it is still dogged by a civil service mentality that finds it hard to get its mind around risk transfer and building contractors who persist in seeing it as public spending in hire-purchase form.

For all that the PFI has probably gathered enough momentum to guarantee its survival, Labour has embraced it as eagerly as the present Government as a way of easing the public finances. What could be more seductive than an initiative that turns capital spending today into current expenditure tomorrow? Everybody knows that buying on the never-never always comes home to roost eventually but who cares when it is your successor that is going to have to sort out the mess? Spreading the risk through PFI bonds takes the process a stage further. What the investor would be buying, in essence, is a privatised gift. That reality will need to be reflected in an enhanced coupon, inflating the ultimate cost of the project. As always, the financier's gain will be the public's loss.

### Murdoch puts the frighteners on Pearson

Just who does control BSkyB? That question seems worth asking again because of the satellite television company's reported interest in bidding for Pearson. Any such enterprise would give BSkyB control of the Fi-

nanial Times and 24 per cent of Channel 5 – a state of affairs that regulators and the competition authorities would tolerate only if BSkyB were, as its chief executive Sam Chisholm always insists, completely independent of its 40 per cent shareholder, Rupert Murdoch.

On the face of it, this is not an easy corner to argue. Mr Murdoch is a main board director of BSkyB, and was instrumental in appointing its chief executive, Mr Chisholm, who in turn has a side contract with News Corporation, and sits on its board. Mr Murdoch's daughter, Elizabeth, is now in charge of broadcast operations and all programming. BSkyB is regularly cited by Mr Murdoch in his discussions of News Corporation's global media strategy, and is indeed a key outpost of his world empire.

Ask any other board member who gets the final say on decisions and the answer is unambiguous – Rupert Murdoch. All the same there is a case for arguing that since the company is no longer majority-owned by Mr Murdoch, he no longer controls it. The company's chairman is not Mr Murdoch but Gerry Robinson, whose Granada Group has an 11 per cent holding. Going for Pearson would also involve a high degree of dilution, further undermining Mr Murdoch's position.

All this is a trifle academic, however. It seems unlikely in the extreme that Mr Murdoch would be allowed anywhere near the FT, even if indirectly through a reduced stake in BSkyB. Moreover, the FT is not the

target of BSkyB's preliminary musings over a Pearson takeover. The real prize is the television subsidiary, worth perhaps as much as £1bn. This is surely what lies behind the present bout of excitement.

It is an attempt to bounce and frighten Pearson, which is in a difficult interregnum between management regimes, into selling. The attractions of Pearson's TV business to BSkyB are obvious. BSkyB needs to develop its own programming, which at present is largely bought in. Pearson provides a ready-made programming unit, unencumbered except for its stake in Channel 5 by a terrestrial licence.

Mr Chisholm is no doubt as keen as the next man to empire-build, but unless he's seriously fallen out with Mr Murdoch, it is hard to see why he should want to go the whole hog and use BSkyB to build a combined broadcast and publishing group to rival News Corp. That doesn't mean he wouldn't bid for Pearson to break it up, but how much better for everyone if Pearson just sells him what he really wants.

### Mutuals receive short shrift

That long promised Building Societies Bill may not have done much to protect what is rapidly becoming an endangered species, but it certainly seems to have set Angela Knight's pulse racing. The Treasury Minis-

ter told the Building Societies Association annual conference last May that she was "pressing, urging, kicking, shouting, pushing, requesting, asking and nagging in order to get the parliamentary time [for this Bill] as soon as possible". And, she reminded her audience, she is "a good nagger". Not good enough, it seems.

The Treasury admitted yesterday that the Bill will not figure in the Queen's Speech, and there was only the vaguest of possibilities that it would be resurrected at a later stage.

Poor Mrs Knight. The unfortunate truth is that this watered-down Bill would not actually have done much to revive the slowly dying mutual movement in any case. There was a bit of tinkering at the edges to put building societies on a more equal footing with banks, some measures to improve accountability, and some anti-takeover clauses, but it was hardly enough to stem the tide of conversion and takeover. All the same, it was something. There's to be no lifeline of any variety now.

The fact that the Government cannot find any time amid a legislative programme cluttered with such measures of such obvious and vital public importance as the National Heritage Memorial Fund Bill doesn't say much for the regard in which it holds building societies.

Ministers seem to care more about Britain's stock of stately homes than its last remaining mutuals.

## BP to build chemical factory in China

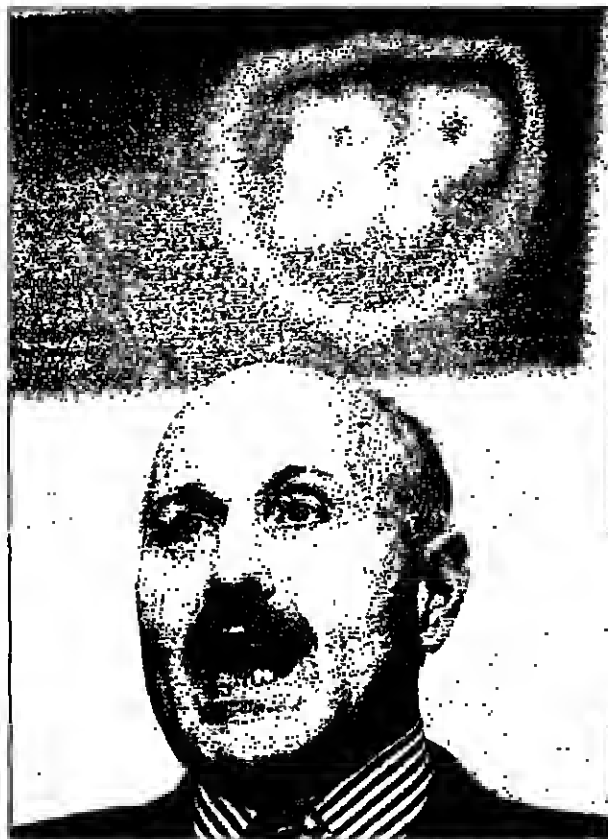
Chris Godsmark  
Business Correspondent

The Chinese obsession with manmade sweaters was one of the factors behind a \$2.5bn (£1.6bn) deal announced yesterday by the UK oil giant BP, the company's biggest joint venture in the People's Republic and its second substantial investment there in the space of a year.

BP Chemicals said it had signed a letter of intent with one of China's highest chemicals producers, the Shanghai Petrochemical Company, for the construction of a plant to make 650,000 tons of ethylene a year. Both sides stressed that the agreement was part of a long-term partnership to use BP's expertise in technology, management and marketing which could have other lucrative spin-offs.

It follows BP's first large-scale move into China last December with Sinopec, the largest state petrochemical firm and the majority shareholder of the Shanghai Petrochemical Company.

Construction has already started on the \$200m (£126m) project in which BP has a 51 per cent stake. Called the Yangtze River Acetyls Company, the plant makes acetic acid, a base chemical widely used in the manufacture of textiles, paints and herbicides.



Commitment: John Browne has signed an agreement

Construction work on the latest project is unlikely to start for a year and the first phase is expected to involve the building of a plant making

cent of the world's manufacturing capacity, either in the form of joint ventures or under licence.

BP said the initial intention was that the two partners should each own 50 per cent of the venture, though the value of the British investment would include cash and technology, while Shanghai Petrochemical would provide some of its existing plants.

The deal is a further demonstration of BP's drive to gain a significant foothold in the vast Chinese market, most recently through close ties with Sinopec.

The company has been keen to show its commitment to the country and yesterday's signing ceremony, held in Peking's Great Hall of the People, was attended by John Browne, BP's chief executive.

"BP has been quite aggressive to get into China, despite the fact that historically it didn't have a very high exposure in Asia," said Fergus MacLeod, an oil analyst with NatWest Markets.

The first BP deal with the Chinese, a chemical licensing agreement, was signed in 1973 as the country took the tentative steps towards opening its economy.

More recent investments have included \$200m (£126m) invested in onshore and offshore oil exploration.

## Racing Green sold for £19m

Nigel Cope

Retail entrepreneur David Krantz netted his second high-street fortune yesterday when he sold the Racing Green mail order and stores group to Burton for £19m.

Mr Krantz, 43, also founded the Blazer menswear chain in the early 1980s before selling it to Storehouse for £5m in 1987. It was acquired by Moss Bros in June.

A former travelling salesman who used to sell menswear from a suitcase, Mr Krantz said he preferred the formative stages of a business to running a larger concern.

"I've got other things I want to do, though I might have a little holiday first," he said. His next venture could include a restaurant and something involving organic food. "It certainly won't be in clothing."

Mr Krantz founded Racing Green in 1991 after noticing the success of mail order companies such as Lands' End in the US. Racing Green started as a mail order concern specialising in up-

market casual clothing. "I'd seen the growth of specialities in America in the 1980s and I thought it would be the right thing to do here in the 1990s," Mr Krantz said.

Though two-thirds of its sales still come from its catalogues, the group now has five high street stores, including a flagship site on London's Regent Street. It achieved sales of £18m last year though it only broke even. Burton said the deal complemented the £45m acquisition of the Innovations mail order group in August.

"We see home shopping as a growth sector, a coming thing," said Burton's finance director, Andrew Higginson. He said the purchase of Innovations had given Burton access to database management and marketing skills required in mail order.

The acquisition of Racing Green was more about the brand. "We think it's got a lot of potential," Mr Higginson said. Burton plans to build the mail order business and add more stores. It is possible that



Andrew Higginson: Sees home shopping as a growth area

the company will open Racing Green outlets within its Debenhams stores.

Burton said in the summer that it hoped to introduce catalogue versions of its main brands such as Burton, Dorothy Perkins and Principles to the UK over the next two years.

Burton is paying £15m in cash with the remaining £4m be-

ing funded by the issue of 2.7 million new Burton shares. An additional £1m may be payable if Racing Green meets performance targets for the year ending December 1996.

Mr Krantz will remain with Racing Green for three months to ensure a smooth management hand over. He will then be retained as a consultant.

## Investors call on Greycoat to break itself up

Nigel Cope

Rebel investors Brian Myerson and Julian Treger yesterday called for the break up of Greycoat, the property group, saying the management had no clear strategy to deliver value for shareholders.

The two investors, whose UK Active Value Fund holds an 11 per cent stake in Greycoat, have requisitioned an Emergency General Meeting to discuss its proposal to sell Greycoat's entire £500m portfolio. This must be called within 49 days.

"The management has failed to deliver. We'd rather have our money back," Mr Myerson said.

Greycoat's managing director, Peter Thornton, described the move as "an unwelcome and costly distraction".

He said such a sale would be premature as the commercial property market in London was not predicted to peak until 1998.

"The timing is awful. It's completely the wrong time to do it," Mr Thornton said. Greycoat shares rose 5.5p to 148.5p.

Greycoat is one of a string of companies targeted by the UK Active Value Fund, which specialises in buying stakes in underperforming companies. It has also led shareholder pressure groups in Signet, the jeweller and Scholl, the footwear group.

Last week the fund called for

Hogg Robinson to break itself up and buy back half the shares.

UK Active Value acquired its stake in Greycoat during a re-financing of the company in 1993 when it was on the brink of collapse.

Mr Myerson has had an uneasy relationship with the company since then and resigned from the board in March in protest against the company's strategy to return to speculative development.

Mr Myerson criticised Greycoat's performance, saying the company's shares stood at a 23 per cent discount to its forecast net asset value of around £185m.

He denied he was calling for a fire-sale, saying the portfolio could be disposed of over an 18-month period.

He also denied that the apparent willingness of UK Active Value to sell its stake had cast a pall over the share price. The fund claims it has never sold a single share in the company.

Both sides claimed to have the support of institutional shareholders. One fund manager described Mr Myerson's action as premature, given the forecasts for the London property market.

"The market is improving and I'm not convinced that liquidating the portfolio is the best way to realise the value," he said.

Investment column, page 20

### IN BRIEF

• **Jeremy Bartholomew-White**, managing director of the failed Scandex Capital Management foreign exchange company, was ordered into the witness box by a High Court judge to explain what had happened to investors' cash. Copenhagen-based Scandex lost £1m of a total of £1.28m of investors' money. Mr Justice Chadwick said he rejected Mr Bartholomew-White's application for another seven days to comply with orders because he had changed his solicitors. Under cross-examination Mr Bartholomew-White was asked if his statements about the assets of Scandex represented "the whole truth". He replied: "Nothing has been left out but we need to qualify things." He was then asked if all clients' money was held in segregated accounts, what assets the company held and where they were. Mr Bartholomew-White said he believed the company had used all the money "running the business". The hearing continues today.

• **The Football Association** yesterday named Wembley as its preferred site for a national stadium. The decision to opt for the world-famous site instead of Manchester was announced after a meeting of the FA's executive committee. It came hours after Britain's athletics bosses plumped for Wembley as the best choice. The Sports Council will make a final decision by year-end. *Full story, page 26*

• **Alex Fletcher**, sales director of Morgan Grenfell Asset Management's unit trust arm, has left to join JP Morgan to work in its asset management operation. Mr Fletcher is believed to be the first director to leave the firm voluntarily since the Peter Young scandal broke.

• **Vodafone**, the UK's largest mobile phone operator, has signed up its millionth digital customer, the first mobile firm to do so. The company claimed its lead over the next largest rival digital network had increased to 300,000 in September from near parity in January.

• **Broad money growth in Germany** slowed to 8.4 per cent in September, from a surprisingly strong 8.7 per cent in August. The most significant aspect of the slowdown was weaker growth in private sector lending, is now well below its spring peak.

• **Euro Disney** said its chairman, Philippe Bourguignon, would take on the additional role of executive vice-president of Walt Disney Co Europe. He will remain primarily responsible for the Disneyland Paris resort, but will also co-ordinate all of Walt Disney's activities in Europe, in co-operation with the European heads of each of the company's main operating subsidiaries.

• **Angerstein**, a Lloyd's underwriting investment trust, is in talks to buy Coffey, the managing agent for Lloyd's Marine Syndicate 902. The discussions are part of Angerstein's strategy to expand its underwriting capabilities and follows the announcement last month that the group intended to buy J E Mumford Holdings, another underwriter. The Coffey syndicate, established in 1976, has an unbroken record of profits and an underwriting capacity of £37.5m.

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## business

## Greenalls shares lack sparkle

Despite being one of the market's success stories during the 1990s, pub and hotel group Greenalls always seems to provide analysts with something to worry about. If it isn't depreciation charges on pub freeholds or indifferent summer weather or suspect cashflow, it is the merger of Bess and Carlsberg-Tetley and the effect that will have on the price of beer.

The shares have underperformed the rest of the market by 6 per cent over the past three months, despite a bullish trading statement a month ago that laid most fears to rest.

From sleepy family brewer, with arcane share structure to boot, Greenalls has grown through astute acquisitions to the point where it flirted with FTSE 100 membership earlier this year. Along the way it has become one of the UK's leading leisure companies, slugging it out with Whitbread in some of the fastest-growing segments of the industry - managed pubs, hotels and travel lodges.

Like Whitbread, it read the runes well in the wake of the 1989 Beer Orders and realised there was a better future in the retailing of beer than in its manufacture. It has watched the dwindling returns from the likes of Carlsberg-Tetley from the sidelines over the past few years and has made its feelings clear to the OFT about further consolidation in the beerage. What is bad for the brewers in terms of overcapacity is ultimately good news for the buyers of discounted beer and there is no higher buyer than Greenalls.

Greenalls is operating in some benign markets just now. Hotels are benefiting from a demographic shift that is seeing older, wealthier people taking more weekend breaks, and a cyclical upturn that is seeing more tourists filling British rooms. The food element of pub trade is on a seemingly inexorable upward track as we eat more frequently out of the home and as food sales rise, drinks sales are dragged along with them.

So why are the shares in the doldrums? Partly, there is a real fear that a combined Bess/Carlsberg operation would use its increased clout to push up the price of Greenalls' most important input cost. There are worries that the company is rather better at spending cash than generating it, although investment spending of over £150m a year is likely to be, at worst, cash neutral.

Finally, although Greenalls has proved adept at buying profits, it is less good at turning them into improved earnings, which have improved at less than 10 per cent a year for the past three years and are forecast to grow at only 11 per cent in the year just fin-

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY TOM STEVENSON

ished and only 6 per cent in the next 12 months. Against that backdrop, a prospective price/earnings ratio of 14 is unlikely to improve much and the shares, at 568p, will continue dull.

## Myerson loses his patience

Brian Myerson's call to break up Greycat seems the act of a man whose patience has finally run out. Mr Myerson's UK Active Value fund bought into the property group in 1993 when the company had fallen foul of the recession and was on the brink of extinction. Having acquired his stake at around 130p Mr Myerson has watched with irritation as the share price has gone nowhere in the past three years, bearing a brief flurry immediately after the restructure.

It is clearly frustration at this lack of progress that has prompted his call to liquidate Greycat's assets. With the share price edging up 5.5p to 148.5p yesterday, Mr Myerson is basically hoping to get his money back.

According to the Myerson camp, this is a good time to sell. The property market is rising and Greycat should cash in now rather than wait too long. This, he claims, is what the company did last time when the market turned against it. Mr Myerson has presumably soundly out other institutional shareholders to gauge support for his proposals but he could find the opposition more powerful. There are plenty of analysts and other shareholders who say that the central London commercial property market, to which Greycat offers exposure, is growing steadily and will not peak until 1998. They also say hanging the "for sale" sign over the portfolio will not help the selling price.

Greycat shareholders have clearly had a miserable time in recent years. The shares slumped from 771p to 39p between the end of 1991 and the beginning of 1993. The shares also stand at a substantial discount to the rest of the property sector. Analysts are forecasting a net asset value for Greycat of around 185p for the year to March 1997. That gives a discount to net assets of nearly 20 per cent compared to the average 7 per cent of larger rivals.

There is a case for Greycat to prune its portfolio, possibly with the sale of the Embankment Place site. New developments will come to the market early in 1998 while the company is also looking for London properties to upgrade. Mr Myerson has done some investors proud by putting a rocket under the boards of companies such as Liberty. But shareholders should reject his proposals on this one.

## Biotech is not a short-term bet

If you bought shares in International Biotechnology Trust in the hope of eliminating some of the volatility inherent in this most speculative of sectors, you will have been disappointed. Since the Rothschild-managed fund was launched at 100p two-and-a-half years ago, it has been as low as 78p, up to 150p, and most of the way back again.

That roller-coaster ride has reflected the market's love-hate relationship with biotech, which has seen some dizzy gyrations even from the blue-chip end of the industry where British Biotech tripled in the first six months of the year before losing a third of its value over the following four months.

IBT has also provided evidence, if any were needed, that investments in young, hi-tech companies can go both ways. During the year, Cytel, an American investment, fell from \$9 a share to about \$3 after trials of a heart drug came to nothing. That was a major contributor to a fall in IBT's net assets of 11 per cent during the year.

Two points need to be made about that fall. First, it is inevitable that a fund investing in untried companies will have occasional setbacks of this order. Second, the share price is only loosely driven by the NAV. During the year to August, IBT's shares rose 22 per cent. Investors in IBT need to be able to shut their eyes to short-term fluctuations and view their shareholding as a medium-term bet on a handful of the 90 products on trial at the company coming good. The trust itself is in these companies for between three and five years and its close relationship with management, bringing in new executives and steering them towards the right strategic partners, is likely to take that long to come to fruition.

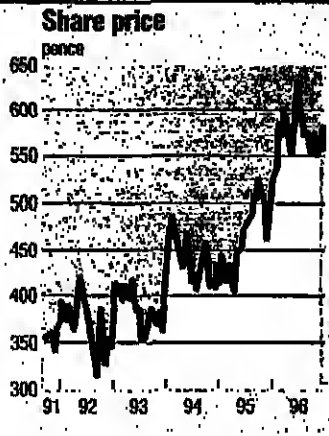
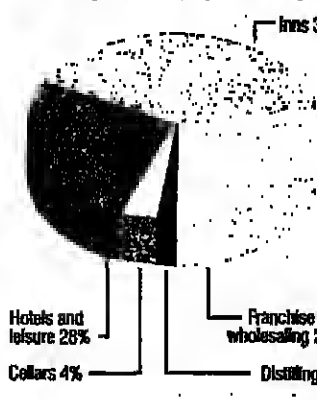
If you have only limited funds to throw at the biotech sector, and cannot afford to do your own diversification, this is the best way to gain an exposure to the potentially exciting capital gains it could provide.

## GREENALLS: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £1.67bn, share price 568p

Five-Year Record	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Turnover (£bn)	52.9	58.5	60.4	62.3	63.2
Pre-tax profits (£m)	42.3	68.0	74.8	101	148
Earnings per share (pence)	22.5	28.4	30.3	35.4	48.5
Dividends per share (pence)	11.5	12.4	13.1	14.2	15.4

## Profit by Activity (H1 1996)



## Bell Cablemedia to buy Videotron in \$600m deal

Chris Goddard  
Business Correspondent

A \$600m (£377m) deal heralding the biggest shake-up in the UK telecommunications market since deregulation could be unveiled as early as today, presenting a huge competitive challenge to BT's near-monopoly of telephone services.

Complex negotiations between Cable & Wireless and Bell Cablemedia continued over the weekend and late into last night, aimed at finalising the takeover of the cable operator Videotron and the merger of the combined group's telephony services with C&W's UK subsidiary, Mercury.

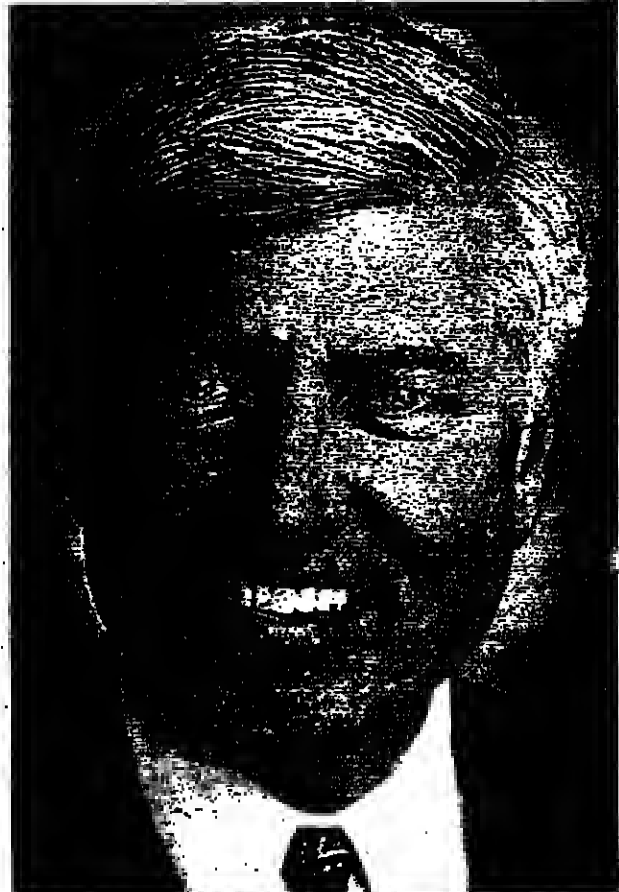
The deal is expected to involve Bell Cablemedia taking control of Videotron, in which it has 26 per cent stake. Cable & Wireless, which owns 13 per cent of Bell Cablemedia, is likely to expand its stake in the enlarged company and will secure Mercury direct access to hundreds of thousands of residential phone customers for the first time.

The move is a surprisingly swift demonstration of the strategy of C&W's recently appointed chief executive, Dick Brown, outlined to City analysts at a cocktail party six weeks ago. His priority was to give Mercury direct access to customers in the UK to prevent its share being squeezed by the expanding cable operators and BT.

Currently, Mercury lays cables only to large business subscribers with phone lines in the region of £10,000 a year. Other smaller customers have to access Mercury using a special button on the handsets of their phones.

Indirect access meant the lucrative special dialling services offered by BT could not be provided and brought the inconvenience of two sets of bills.

An internal strategic review conducted by Mercury for Mr Brown over the past few weeks



Moving swiftly: Dick Brown outlined plans six weeks ago

proposed a huge expansion into the so-called local loop, raising Mercury's annual investment from £350m to around £500m.

Trials have been conducted this year, laying cables to small businesses in Bristol and using fixed radio links.

However, a much quicker route to wider coverage was always through the purchase of a UK cable operator. Videotron became the obvious target when its Canadian parent put the UK side of the business up for sale earlier this year.

The Anglo-Canadian company has invested around

\$400m since the late 1980s, building up a cable network in the UK which covers affluent areas of west and south London and Southampton. A valuable prize is its two telephony-only cable franchises in Westminster and the City of London.

Combining Videotron with Bell Cablemedia would give Cable & Wireless access to a potential 1.5 million homes, second only to Telewest in the size of its coverage.

The challenge for C&W will be to raise take-up rates of the services, which are currently less than 300,000 for television and telephony.

## Barclays mulls custody sale

Nic Ciccotti

Barclays Bank is talking to Morgan Stanley about selling its global custody business in a deal that could create one of the world's biggest global custodians.

Global custody covers services ranging from safe-keeping of shares and bonds to investment accounting and performance measurement. In a statement issued yesterday the banks said that "due to their extensive customer/provider interrelationships in global custody Barclays and Morgan Stanley are in discussions to ex-

plore the potential for future co-operation".

This was interpreted as signal that the two were in the process of striking a deal in which Morgan Stanley would buy the Barclays business which handles approximately £170bn of funds a year.

Morgan Stanley wants to expand in an area that provides a stable source of income as well as giving it an entry point in its search for new clients in other areas of its business. The deal would push Morgan Stanley, which according to the US magazine, *Institutional Investor*,

is ranked 12th in size with \$102bn under management, well into the world's top 10 of custodians.

It would allow the US investment bank to challenge rivals, including Deutsche Bank and Citibank, but leave Chase Manhattan well in the lead with its \$1,000bn in custody.

No price has been placed on the deal. However, when Lloyds Bank bought the £57bn custody business of National Westminster Bank last year, it paid about £17m, suggesting this deal could be worth three times that amount.

It comes amid growing consolidation among global players and the realisation that to remain competitive, custodians must invest larger amounts in new technology. Earlier this year, Royal Bank of Scotland became one of the biggest custodians after reaching a deal with Mercury Asset Management to set up a joint bank, RBS Trust Bank.

Apart from the Lloyds purchase from NatWest, Bank of New York, the third-largest custodian, took over the business of Bank of America and JP Morgan.

## Budgie setback sparks Sleepy Kids warning

John Willcock

Problems in the United States with marketing the Duchess of York's children's books and videos based on *Budgie the Little Helicopter* prompted a 25 per cent fall in the share price of Sleepy Kids' UK publishers, Sleepy Kids, yesterday, as well as a profits warning from the company. Sleepy Kids' share price fell 6.5p to 20p.

Martin Powell, chairman of Sleepy Kids, said yesterday afternoon that while the Budgie

television series had done well in the US, a big merchandising campaign there had been hit when the company's American marketing agent, Laurence Hachmann, was terminated by Sleepy Kids on 29 April. There would be a necessary legal delay until a new US agent could be appointed, he said, then the property would be relaunched through-out the US via a stronger agent.

The chairman said: "Inevitably, the marketing of Budgie in the US has been severely disrupted by our agent filing for Chapter 11 in that territory. It is very frustrating to have such a success on coast-to-coast US television, only for it to be wasted by missed opportunities."

Mr Powell said that the board was very aware of the situation and several plans had been put into place to rectify matters. "We view this issue as a temporary setback which

will inevitably lead to a slowdown in Budgie's US growth for the current year," he added.

"We remain confident regarding Budgie's long-term future and its ability to contribute to the profitability of the group. I would like to emphasise that Sleepy Kids is not solely dependent upon this or any other individual property and a number of other properties are at an advanced stage of development," Mr Powell said.

COMPANY RESULTS				
Turnover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend	
Chemical Design (F)	863,015 (£12,645)	52,478 (£151,810)	0.08p (nil)	nil (nil)
Longman Foods (F)	2,07m (£1,46m)	76,000 (£7,000)	0.06p (£0.04p)	0.04p (nil)
Olives Property (F)	- (-)	468,795 (£33,005)	0.74p (£0.49p)	nil (nil)
Upton & Southern (F)	8,95m (£0,40m)	307,000 (£9,59m)	0.14p (£0.03p)	nil
Waverley Mining (F)	2,24m (-)	4,445m (£22,178)	10.8p (£0.8p)	nil (nil)

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (N) - Nine months

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7.30am HEATHROW Iberia: First to Madrid

# We've got more time for you

## IBERIA

7.55pm MADRID Iberia: Last back to Heathrow



# Time Warner rejection of quick brown Fox sparks conflagration

Rupert Murdoch, used to getting his own way, is fighting a reversal of fortunes, reports David Osborne in New York

All of New York is absorbed by baseball just now and, specifically, the World Series clash between the city's own Yankees and the Atlanta Braves. So far it has been a soggy affair, courtesy of the weather. For my money, the other battle going on here beats it hands down for thrills and for amusement value. Actually, there is a connection between the two. The Braves are owned by Ted Turner, whose cable empire, Turner Broadcasting, was finally merged 10 days ago into Time Warner. That little manoeuvre lies behind the fabulously fearsome battle that Time Warner now finds itself waging with Rupert Murdoch. Anyone who has suffered Mr Murdoch's conquer-the-world antics says the cable companies in Britain struggling to emerge from the dominance of BSkyB, or indeed the publishers of this newspaper, might wish to include in a little private *Schadenfreude* from the difficulties he is facing courtesy of Time Warner in the Big Apple. Enjoy it while you can, though. Time Warner may be bigger than he is, but Murdoch has a way of winning these things.

At issue is the fate of Mr Murdoch's latest media foray - his Fox News, 24-hour cable service that was launched in the United States two weeks ago. It is a biggy, even by Murdoch standards, with \$80m (£50m) already spent and a budget of \$165m for the first year of operation alone. To succeed, however, it must get itself into as many US TV homes as possible. Above all, it needs to be seen in New York City, where, after all, it is based. Which cable system covers Manhattan and most of the rest of the Apple? The answer, of course, is Time Warner Cable. Murdoch believed until late last month that he had the word of Gerald Levin, Time Warner chief executive, that space would be found on the system for his Fox News. But just days before the Fox launch, Mr



Rolling up his sleeves: Ted Turner, the owner of CNN, is known to relish the prospect of a tough fight

Levin in person crossed Sixth Avenue to tell Mr Murdoch the deal was off. Yes, Time Warner would, as required by the government, carry an all-news alternative to Turner's CNN. That, however, would not be Fox but MSNBC, another 24-hour service launched earlier in the summer by NBC and Microsoft. Ka-boom. The Australian dynamite was ignited. Raging now is a conflagration between two of the world's biggest media giants that has already travelled deep into the courts. Mr Murdoch swiftly filed suit against Time Warner accusing it of anti-trust conspiracy, fraud and breach of contract (even though nothing of what Mr Levin allegedly promised was ever written down). "When you're screwed over, you fight," commented Roger Ailes, the former Republican consultant who is running the Fox News Channel (FNC) for Mr Murdoch. "We're not going to quit it to further his agenda. Basically, that is what Murdoch does with the media."

Roger Ailes of Fox News: 'When you are screwed over you fight. We will not quit until we are all down. This is going to be a bloody war'

until we're all dead. This'll be a bloody war." The tactician Mr Levin is attempting to do is to outfox the fight. Two weeks ago he likened Murdoch to Hitler, because, like the Führer, he said, Mr Murdoch uses his media outlet to promote his own political goals. Mr Murdoch apologised and then, last Friday, said it all over again, but this time he did, like all dictators, was taken over the press and use

# NatWest to turn valet parking into an art

PEOPLE & BUSINESS

The refurbishing of the bombed-out NatWest tower, still a City landmark, is nearing completion. NatWest, which owns the freehold, will seek new tenants in the spring, and offer them a new service called "hoteling". The idea, developed in the US, is for the owner of the building to offer all services such as valet parking and cleaning, included in the rent. The rebuilt tower will also feature a vasty expanded glass atrium several storeys tall just down the street from the Stock Exchange.

Lord Alexander, NatWest's chairman, also has plans for NatWest's more traditional head office in Lombard Street, just opposite the Bank of England. Builders are revamping the large entrance lobby, which Lord Alexander wants to turn into an art gallery, open to the public.

He has always been a keen advocate of the arts, and the bank has collections in London and Manchester which would easily fill the space. One more thought. When Lloyds bank bought TSB it didn't know what to do with TSB's extensive collection of modern art, collected with the encouragement of Sir Nicholas Goodison, another keen art fan. There isn't room in Lloyds' head office in Lombard Street - so how about lending it to the NatWest gallery opposite?

Davies, in marketing, is also the mother of five children. As one Morgan source murmurs: "It must be something in the air conditioning."

Everyone's heard about how Wallace & Gromit got lost in



Towering inferno: NatWest flagship is under repair

son who returned them has spurned the £500 reward, preferring anonymity. The package of unclaimed cheques now lies supping somewhere in the Big Apple. The cheese itself is described as "lumpy and crumbly." Now doubt tanger by the day.

Pets at Home, a rival to the Pet City shop chain, is opening five more shops, one of them with a fully operational veterinary surgery, as the war for the "pet pound" heats up. Anthony Preston, chairman and managing director of Pets at Home, has 27 branches including the new openings, and plans to have 39 before the middle of next year.

Mr Preston thinks he has a secret weapon which will put him ahead of competitors like Pet City. Pets at Home says: "Where the supermarket chains stopped at in-store pharmacies Preston has set up a veterinary surgery in the Walsall store, under the band name Companion Care." Mr Preston claims the £80,000 clinic is a first for the UK. Now all he has to do is sign up a lot of felines.

The people at Rapture, a cable television company aimed at teenagers, are still reeling from last week's cable industry conference at Olympia in London. And not just because of the corporate hospitality. They suffered a spectacular back-firing of their best-laid plans for a publicity stunt. Rapture had its stand at the conference rigged up as a teenager's room - a carefully constructed tip. Imagine their horror on Thursday to find that Olympia's cleaning crew had cleaned it up - clothes hung up, mags and crisp packets in the bin. They were presented with an immaculate, unrecognisable like flat. The best-laid litter of mice and men.

John Willcock

Foreign Exchange Rates				
Country	Spot	1 month	3 months	D-Mark
US	1.5805	0.7	21.3	0.6590
Canada	2.1444	38.34	102.10	0.6777
Germany	1.4438	24.58	172.95	0.5895
France	1.5250	76.47	490.43	0.5895
Italy	1.3633	43.58	125.14	0.5895
Japan	173.30	87.83	249.24	0.5895
ECU	1.2773	20.17	58.41	0.5895
Netherlands	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Denmark	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Norway	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Sweden	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Switzerland	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Australia	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Hong Kong	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Malaysia	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
New Zealand	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
South Africa	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Singapore	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895

Interest Rates									
UK		Germany		US		Japan			
Base	5.75%	Discount	2.50%	Discount	3.75%	Discount	0.50%		
France		Lombard	4.50%	Prime	5.00%	Belgium			
Intervention	3.55%	Canada		FBI Funds	5.25%	Canada	2.50%		
Italy		Prime	3.20%	Swiss		Central	3.00%		
Discount	5.25%	Denmark	5.00%	1 Day Bill	6.38%	Netherlands			
Overnight		Overnight		3 Months		Switzerland			
Advances	2.50%	Discount	3.25%	Repo (Yrs)	4.95%	Lombard	100%		
						Advances	4.25%		
Bond Yields				1980 US Treasury Prices					
Country	9yr	yield %	10yr	yield %	Country	9yr	yield %	10yr	yield %
UK	7 7/8	707 1/2	7 3/8		Netherlands	8 1/8	478	8 1/8	528
US	9 1/4	626	8 5/8	548	Spain	10 0/8	687	10 5/8	728
Japan	5 5/8	161	3 1/2	2 3/4	Italy	8 1/4	707	9 1/8	673
Australia	8 1/4	707	3 1/2	749	Belgium	5 1/4	4 1/4	7 1/8	633
Germany	5 5/8	426	5 3/8	538	Sweden	8 1/8	638	8 1/8	728
France	5 1/8	435	7 25/32	538	ECU OAT	6	585	7 1/8	633
*Yields calculated on bond basis									
Money Market Rates									
	Overnight	7 Day		1 Month		3 Months		1 Year	
Interbank	4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	5 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4	6 1/4
Steuering Cds	-	-	-	5 1/8	5 1/8	6 1/4	6 1/4	-	-
Local Authority Cds	5 1/8	-	6 1/4	5 1/8	5 1/8	6 1/4	6 1/4	-	-
Discount Market Cds	-	-	-	-	-	6 1/4	6 1/4	-	-
Treasury Bills (90d)	-	-	-	5 1/8	5 1/8	-	-	-	-
Dollar Cds	-	-	-	5 1/8	5 1/8	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2	5 1/2
ECU United Day	-	-	-	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4	4 1/4
Tourist Rates									
£ Buys			£ Buys			£ Buys			
Australia(Dollars)	18355		France(Francs)	86278		New Zealand(Dollars)	22755		
Canada(Dollars)	16250		Germany(Marks)	23845		Portugal(Escudos)	32555		
Belgium(Francs)	481000		Greece(Drachmas)	375000		Spain(Pesetas)	204550		
Canada(Dollars)	21050		Hong Kong(Dollars)	110575		Sweden(Kronor)	203000		
Cyprus(Pounds)	02850		Italy(Liras)	09850		Switzerland(Francs)	140575		
Denmark(Krone)	02850		Ireland(Pounds)	2397200		United States(Dollars)	108575		
Holland(Gulden)	177400		Japan(Yen)	277400		West Germany(Marks)	462000		
Pakistan(Rupees)	72750		Malaysia(Ringgit)	03850		United States(Dollars)	108575		
Latest Rates									

Liffe Financial Futures				
Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
US 10 Year T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 30 Year T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 5 Year T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 1 Year T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 6 Month T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 3 Month T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 1 Month T-Bond	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 3 Month Eurodollar	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 6 Month Eurodollar	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
US 1 Year Eurodollar	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12

Industrial Metals				
Commodity	Price	Change	High	Low
Aluminum	1.5805	0.7	21.3	0.6590
Steel	1.4438	24.58	172.95	0.5895
Copper	1.5250	76.47	490.43	0.5895
Gold	1.3633	43.58	125.14	0.5895
Silver	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Platinum	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Palladium	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Iron Ore	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Crude Oil	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Natural Gas	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895

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Sweden	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Switzerland	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
United Kingdom	1.5805	0.7	21.3	0.6590
United States	1.4438	24.58	172.95	0.5895

Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld	Stock	Sell	Buy	Yld
European	18.52	14.77	7.00	Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria			
Japan	20.24	16.25	7.00	Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria			
Asia Pacific	20.24	16.25	7.00	Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria			
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Asia Pacific	20.24	16.25	7.00	Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria			
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Liffe FTSE Option				
Contract	Settlement	High/Low	Open	Close
FTSE 100	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 250	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 500	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 750	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 1000	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 1250	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 1500	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 1750	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 2000	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12
FTSE 2250	102.12	102.12	102.12	102.12

Commodity Indices				
Commodity	Price	Change	High	Low
Aluminum	1.5805	0.7	21.3	0.6590
Steel	1.4438	24.58	172.95	0.5895
Copper	1.5250	76.47	490.43	0.5895
Gold	1.3633	43.58	125.14	0.5895
Silver	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Platinum	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Palladium	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Iron Ore	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Crude Oil	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895
Natural Gas	1.3525	14.10	38.31	0.5895

Latest Unit Trust Prices				
Unit Trust	Price	Change	High	Low
Aluminum	1.5805	0.7	21.3	0.6590
Steel	1.4438	24.58	172.95	0.5895
Copper	1.5250	76.47	490.43	0.5895
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## market report / shares

## DATA BANK

FTSE 100  
4073.1 +20.0

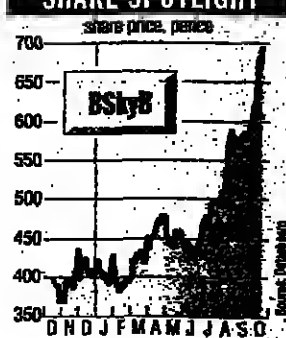
FTSE 250  
4449.4 -0.7

FTSE 350  
2022.1 +7.8

SEAQ VOLUME  
614.1m shares,  
42,670 bargains

Glits Index  
93.9 -0.10

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT



## BTR out of step as Footsie continues to march forward

BTR, the sprawling conglomerate which Ian Strachan is endeavouring to reinvent as a global engineering and manufacturing group, fell 6.5p to 254.5p, its lowest since August when worries about its interim profits. In the event the figures were at least in line with the most subdued expectations and the shares moved ahead, topping 280p.

Such an advance was crucial to BTR. It had a batch of warrants exercisable at 25p within 30 days of last month's results. If taken up in full they represented a much-needed £280m cash inflow.

For months before the interim figures BTR shares traded below the warrant strike price. Now the figures are out and the warrants exercised by those who felt it worthwhile to do so, BTR shares seem to be back on the downward trail. Volume yesterday was put at around 8.5 million with some

lumpy deals going through at below the old warrant price. BTR has dramatically underperformed other blue chips. The Strachan revamping exercise is welcome but many observers fear it will be years before any benefits start to flow through.

The once-fashionable conglomerate suffered its latest reverse as front-running shares hit yet another peak, with Footsie up 20 points to a record 4,073.1. Once again volume was less than inspiring, with many investors content to sit on the sidelines. Positive trading in New York was again the most telling influence.

Pearson, the media group, was the best-performing blue chip. Last week's management changes, which promoted little-known Marjorie Scardino to chief executive, were forgotten as bid stories swirled. BSkyB, the satellite television station, denied rumoured interest but



## MARKET REPORT

DEREK PAIN

Pearson, for long seen as a break-up bid candidate, was undaunted, gaining 33.5p to 730p.

If BSkyB does not pounce there is a strong belief others will. Analysts believe the Financial Times to Lazard banking group commands a break-up valuation of more than 900p. BSkyB edged forward 5.5p to 696.5p.

Reuters, ahead of an investment presentation, put on 10.5p to 806p. The group's innovative plan to hand out cash to shareholders has been blocked by the Government's clamp on share buybacks but some wonder whether the information group is preparing

a special dividend plan to overcome the Whitehall block.

Cadbury Schweppes, with presentations in the US, melted 3p to 517.5p. It seems there is a growing divide between London and US analysts about the group's prospects in general and in particular its decision to challenge the might of Coca-Cola and Pepsi-Cola in their home market.

Zeneca, the drugs group, was another to defy gravity, up 33.5p to 1,758.5p. Cortes International managed a modest 6.5p rally to 206.5p on new developments, including a migraine treatment.

SkyePharma added 6p to 83p on its US deal and sug-

gestions from SBC Warburg the shares could be worth around 100p.

Cable & Wireless edged ahead 4.5p to 441p on hopes it could, without too much of a cash outlay, emerge as a major shareholder in Videotron, the cable company.

National Westminster Bank improved 12p to 721p as ABN Amro Hoare Govett suggested a switch out of Abbey National, down 5p to 604.5p.

T&N stock at 129p although Warburg believes the shares are worth nearer 100p; Imperial Chemical Industries, ahead of figures on Thursday, fell 5p to 792.5p.

Oils were firm, partly on the strength of the crude price. British Petroleum added 9p to 687.5p following its joint venture in China.

East Midlands Electricity edged forward to 465.5p. There is a growing suspicion it will be the next utility to attract

US attention. The shares are around their year's low, leaving the group looking vulnerable to a determined strike.

A trading statement from Slespy Kids, the merchandising operation taking in the Duchess of York's creation, Budget the Helicopter, sent the shares spinning 6.5p lower to 20p.

Strong & Fisher, the leather group, spurred 6p to 20.5p on the mop-up bid from Hill-down Holdings and CA Sperati (Special Agency), a button group which has for long enjoyed the dubious distinction of being one of the market's favourite shell situations, jumped 87.5p to 887.5p. The shares are an exceedingly thin market and consequently prone to sharp movements.

Conrad, the sports group was suspended at 6.75p. It is thought to be near to buying a football league club, with Sheffield United the name in the frame.

## TAKING STOCK

□ The quaintly named Po Na chain of late-night bars is the toast of Nigel Popham, drinks analyst at stockbroker Theobald & Greenwood. He believes the shares, traded on the fringe OTC market, are on a too cautious rating at 15p, up 2p. He sees profits this year jumping from £33,000 to £400,000, with £320,000 likely next year. The company, which is related to fully quoted Grosvenor Inns, has seven bars with North African themes, with another to open soon in Edinburgh.

□ Courtyard Leisure looks interesting. The shares climbed 1.5p to 17.75p on indications margins at the wine bar business are improving. Robert Earl, creator of Planet Hollywood, has a 3.25 per cent stake and Lomond Investment, running the Drum & Monkey bar chain, has 29.9 per cent.

## Share Price Data

Prices are in sterling except where stated. The yield is last year's dividend, grossed up by 20 per cent, as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, excluding exceptional items. Other details: Ex rights & dividend & Ex all United Securities Market's Suspended on Partly Paid on Nil Paid Shares & AM Stock. Source: FT Information.

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Calls cost 30p per minute (cheap rate), and 40p at all other times. Call charges include VAT.

## Market leaders: Top 20 volumes

Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100	Stock	Vol/100
ASDA Group	54000	Shell Energy	50000	Radio	50000	Barton	50000
Parsons	50000	BT	50000	BP	50000	Wentworth	50000
BT	50000	BT	50000	BT	50000	BT	50000
BT	50000	BT	50000	BT	50000	BT	50000

## FTSE 100 index hour by hour

Open 40594 up 63	11.00 40599 up 63	14.00 40618 up 67
High 40603 up 120	12.00 40607 up 78	15.00 40608 up 68
Low 40582 up 51	13.00 40627 up 86	16.00 40675 up 141
		Close 40731 up 200

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Ernest & Ernest  
The Discreet Watchmaker

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## RACING'S FUTURES MARKET

Same Old Wish is 25-1 (Lad-  
brokes) - Coral go 10-1 - while  
Charwood Forest is 16-1  
(William Hill) - Coral go 10-1.  
Breeder's Cup Turf Award is  
12-1 (Tote) - William Hill go 7-1.  
Breeder's Cup Classic Yanks  
Music is 12-1 (Coral) - Lad-  
brokes and the Tote go 6-1 -  
while Editors Note is 12-1  
(Tote) - Coral go 8-1. Lion-  
Quartze is 16-1 (Coral) - Lad-  
brokes go 9-1 - while Tamayazay  
is 33-1 (William Hill) - Coral go  
16-1. War's Way 10-1 (Tote)  
- Ladbrokes go 20-1.  
NBA: horses at British odds and  
the raiders (those carrying GB  
FR & JAF suffixes) on the Ameri-  
can Tote - the Pari-mutuel.  
Ian Davies

3 425-234 KALZANI (104) (D) A Carroll 11.20 D. \_\_\_\_\_ A P McCoy  
- 3 declared -  
Minimum weight, 10st. True handicap weight: Kalzani Set 13lb.  
BETTING: 1-2 Hamilton SMK, 11-4 Dayfoots Beach, 5-1 Kalzani



## sport

## ONE DAY IN AMERICA

A remarkable 24 hours in the United States produced an extraordinary variety of sporting drama

## Yankees swept away in a flood of nostalgia

## BASEBALL

**David Osborne** watches the Bronx Bombers blow up spectacularly in the opening game of the World Series

Never has a sporting event attracted such hyperbole. They call it the World Series, when it is nothing of the sort (What could be more domestic to the United States than baseball?). They still call the New York Yankees America's team, even if this was their first shot at the Series in 18 years. And they call the Yankees the best, when... well, more of that in a moment.

But step off the No 4 subway train adjacent to Yankee Stadium in the Bronx early on Sunday evening and such quibbles instantly evaporate. Never mind the misplaced arrogance and the years of disappointment, the Bronx Bombers, as the Yankees are also known, are back at the top. The streets are seething with pilgrims, desperate for a win over the Atlanta Braves. And I, all of a sudden, am a pilgrim too.

Beneath the elevated rails of the subway and under the towering white concrete walls of the House That Ruth Built is New York City distilled. "Go Yankee" supplements of the city tabloids carpet the streets. Brass bands play. Police horses trample. And everyone, it seems, is searching, searching for gold. Tickets are gold. Cash - sometimes up to \$1,000 - changes hands in knotting groups. Undercover police officers watch, wait and pounce. Tens of thousands will be in jail cells by the end of the evening.

And so, at last, we, the lucky ones, step inside the stadium. The anticipation is overwhelming. This is the first of the best-of-seven games and it has been delayed by a day because of a tempest that lashed the city on Saturday. The field is ready thanks mostly to those other "finest" of New York, its police. Two police helicopters had spent part of the day hovering low over the turf, their whirling blades being used as giant hairdryers.

The nostalgia pours down on us faster than the rain the night before. Joe DiMaggio, second only to Babe Ruth in the pantheon of Yankee icons, steps on the field to throw out the first ball. And the capacity crowd of some 56,000 goes wild. Images of Mickey Mantle, another Yankee legend who died from cancer last year, flash across the video screen. What game could possibly match such a build-up? Only a game that is won by the Yankees.

There are few sights more magical and closer to the soul of this country than that of a baseball diamond under lights. The giant stripes left by the mowers are a magnified version of the neatness of the Centre Court at Wimbledon. There is something of Wembley Stadium here also - the merciless inhospitality that the home team fans show to the few Braves supporters who have been foolish enough to show up and reveal themselves.

This was the moment to be sober and to consider the opposition: the Braves, who have been in four of the last five World Series. In the 1990s it is they who have really been America's team. And they had arrived in the Bronx after coming from behind to crush the St Louis Cardinals in the National League Championship Series. Although no New York tabloid writer had dared admit it, the odds had to be in their favour.

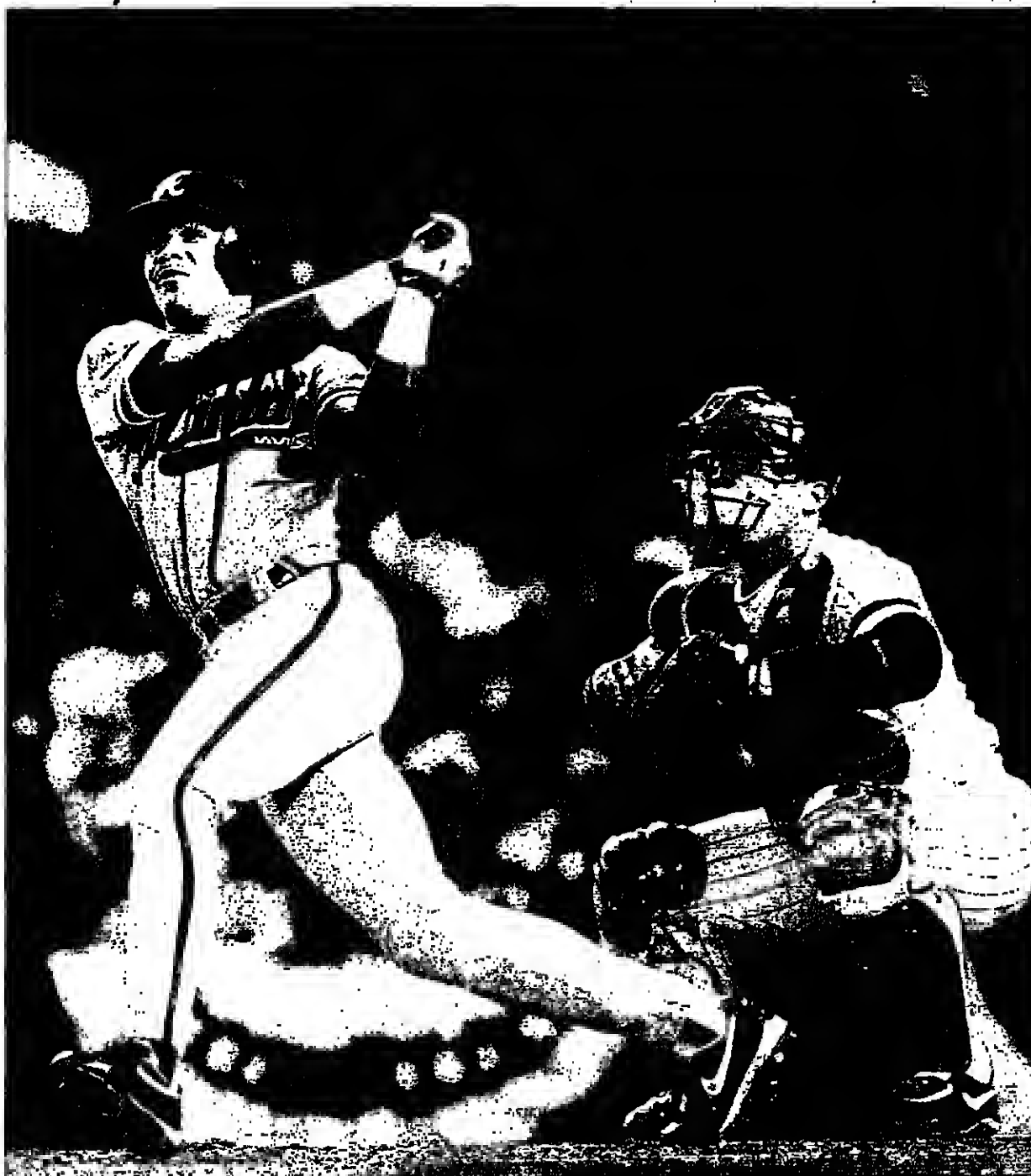
Things begin well enough. On the mound, the Braves' pitcher, John Smoltz, seems a little shaky. It is no runs each at the end of the first inning. Theo, a little-known teenager from Curaçao comes on the field and the Yankee fans get their first premonitions of the disaster that is to come. With a scorching hit that sends the ball sailing out across left field and into the crowd, Andrew Jones, at just 19 years and 6 months, becomes the youngest player to hit a home run in a World Series game. On my press-desk TV monitor I glimpse DiMaggio in his box seated next to Henry Kissinger. Both look worried.

It is to the third inning, however, when the pilgrimage of hope really turns into one of despair. Already it is 5-0 against the Yankees, and Jones is back on the plate. Pow! Another home run. It does not help the mood in the press area when it is discovered that the record that has been broken by Jones had until then been held by none other than Mantle, with the homer he hit for the Yankees against the Brooklyn Dodgers back in 1952. Mantle had been 20 - a full year older than Jones.

The fans are getting sour. They have suffered the sight of their revered pitcher Andy Pettitte being relieved of his duty after the first Jones home run and replaced by Brian Boehringer who is barely more successful. Smoltz of the Braves in the meantime is cruising. He will end the night giving away only two hits in total. When Jones, who began the season in the lower reaches of the minor leagues before joining the Braves, only in August, returns to hit for a third time, the Stadium erupts in loud boos.

And then at the top of the fifth a run from the Yankees. The video display goes nuts. "THE YANKS ARE COMING. HEY HO". The crowd attempts its own "Hey Ho", but it is awfully thin. That was the Yankee run. We sort of knew that no more would be coming tonight. Some Yankees supporters, who were filling out of the ground by the seventh inning, had a paid even two grand, for seats and their reward was a terrible knee in the guts from the Braves. By the end, the score was a humiliating 12-1. What they had witnessed was the worst loss in a World Series game by the Yankees in all of their history.

Mark, an analyst with Morgan Stanley, cannot even think of the next game. "Really, I'm too bitter. It's all inside me, and it's bitter. Ask me in the morning, and maybe we can talk about the rest of the series". Mark had paid a broker \$325 (£205) for his top-tier ticket. He does not expect to be back. He will only pray that the Bronx Bombers do not bomb again, as they have again, but soar back to make a real contest of the 1996 World Series.



Winners all: Andrew Jones (above) hits the first of two home runs in the World Series, DC United (left) celebrate their victory in the MLS Cup final and Tiger Woods (right) triumphs in the Walt Disney World Classic



## Stars, bars and a golden goal to relish

## SOCCER

**John Carlin** watches as a nation is enthralled by a cup final that promises to lift the game into a new dimension

Fairy-tale. Epic. Pulsating. Historic. All the clichés apply to describe the biggest domestic soccer match ever played on American soil, the five-goal thriller that decided the outcome of the first ever Major League Soccer cup final on Sunday.

DC United, the underdogs from Washington, defeated Los Angeles Galaxy, already established as the glamour club of the MLS, by three goals to two, having been two goals down with 17 minutes of the match remaining. The winner, a sudden-death "golden goal", came five minutes into extra time.

The game was played in the sort of conditions that persuaded the faint hearts of Merseyside to call off Sunday's derby: relentless torrential rain that, even before the game began, had reduced large areas of New England's Foxboro pitch to conditions more suitable for water polo. Most parts of the stadium provided no cover from the elements, yet 35,000 fans, the majority neutrals, stayed through to the end and for the celebrations beyond.

The big fish, before the game began, were Galaxy, who dominated the infant MLS season after winning their first 12 games in a row and then proceeded to pack in consistently the highest crowds in the league: 30,000-plus. United, on the other hand, lost eight of their first 10 matches and rarely saw crowds of more than 20,000 at Washington's RFK Memorial Stadium. By the end of May it appeared as clear that Galaxy were going to cruise to glory - either then or Tampa Bay Mutiny, who in the blond, dreadlocked Colombian Carlos Valderrama have enjoyed the services of the award-winning MLS player of the year.

Yet, against all the odds, DC United beat Tampa roundly in the best-of-three semi-final play-offs after defeating Roberto Donadoni's New York/New Jersey MetroStars in the quarters. It is perhaps inappropriate to draw comparisons so early on in the life of US professional soccer, but until their late burst United appeared to be the Coventry of the MLS - plucky but condemned to lower table anonymity. Pluck was the quality most required in Sunday's appalling weather conditions and it was Galaxy who displayed more of it initially - all the more admirable as they come from Southern California, where it never rains. For this they had Eduardo Hurtado to thank. Remarkably for an Ecuadorian, Hurtado is 6ft 3in and weighs 14 stone. He is strong, hard, fast and full of heart - a little too much, perhaps, as he was fortunate not to be sent off by the referee for playing at times as if this were not soccer but American football.

It was he who scored the first goal in the fifth minute, spreading the ball wide from midfield to El Salvador's diminutive Mauricio Cienfuegos on the right wing, running into the penalty area to meet a curling cross and rising high above the defence to power a header the top right hand corner. So dominant was Hurtado in the first half against his marker, United's home-grown central defender Edwin Pope, that one of the commentators on ABC Television remarked that Hurtado's nickname should be changed from "the Tank" to "all-purpose, all-terrain vehicle".

As the game progressed Pope, one of the few black American players in MLS, began to get the measure of the mighty Hurtado, began to look, indeed, like the very model of the fast, skilful, intelligent defender the modern game increasingly requires: it was he who scored United's second goal, after a cross from the man-of-the-match, Bolivia's Marco Antonio Etcheverry.

Despite the ABC commentators' observation early on that Galaxy's Cobi Jones and United's John Harkes would both benefit from their experience in England - "these are pretty well normal field conditions for a game in the English league" - they did not shine. The ABC men did volunteer a couple of other odd remarks, such as "a 2-0 lead in soccer is the most dangerous lead you can have", but all in all they displayed an understanding of the game that has matured enormously since the baby-talk US viewers endured - or perhaps required - during the last World Cup.

The standard of play has also matured. As the US national team showed in the World Cup there is no shortage of energy and enthusiasm in the American game, but the whole has tended to be greater than the parts. But what Sunday's cup final revealed is that the finesse of players like Etcheverry and Valderrama has rubbed off on the natives. They may have no individuals yet who match the skill of the Latin Americans on the ball, but the teams play the ball along the ground, try a lot of one-touch passing and provide glimpses of what lies ahead in the years to come when the best of the millions of American children for whom soccer has become the dominant sport take on - as they surely will - beat the world.

No less important, America's sports-mad TV public is slowly but surely taking to soccer. As the *Washington Post* reported in a lyrical front page story yesterday, in sports bars all over Washington bar-owners switched their TVs from the Redskins' NFL game against the New York Giants to the MLS final. The American football fans not only failed to register any complaints, they were immediately consumed by the fever of the alien spectacle. It was, according to the *Post*, "an improbable finish that American professional leagues with decades of history would surely envy". And it provided the appropriately heroic finale to an MLS season that has exceeded all expectations in terms of crowd attendance, TV ratings, drama and quality of play. DC United's club motto is "The Tradition Begins". It has proved happily prescient, for them and for soccer in the United States generally.

## Hurricane Tiger sweeps in Britain rules the Windy City Aikman rescues Cowboys

Having defied history, the law of averages, and the best efforts of 80 of his peers to win his second professional tournament in this weekend, only one question remains to be answered about 21-year-old Tiger Woods: where will it all end?

The victory of golf's new sensation in the Walt Disney/Oldsmobile event in Florida at the weekend was sealed with a final round of 66, giving him a 21-under-par total of 267, and a one-stroke margin over Pádraig Harrington. Woods earned a \$216,000 (£135,000) prize and - even more indicative - a front page splash yesterday on the austere *New York Times*. Such is the growing phenomenon of Tigermania.

Instead of slipping into seasonal obscurity, golf is sharing the sporting headlines in America with professional football and baseball's World Series. And the reason for the excitement is no longer even that Woods is a coloured kid (his father is black, his mother is Thai) breaking into a white man's sport. That fact may have won him a \$40m Nike sponsorship deal. But fans now turn out in the tens of thousands not to study his race, but to ogle a breathtaking swing that sends the ball further (and straighter) than John Daly.

Woods is hailed as the new Arnold Palmer or Jack Nicklaus; in fact his debut has been infinitely more spectacular. In his first seven tournaments on the 1995 tour, Palmer had two top-10 finishes. Seven years on, Nicklaus had only one - although he would win the 1962 US Open. Tiger has

## GOLF

**Tiger Woods has taken the USPGA Tour by storm. Rupert Cornwell reports**

now finished in the top five in five straight tournaments, the first player to do so since Curtis Strange in 1982.

He joined the tour in August after a third consecutive US Amateur title, with the goal of merely gaining his PGA tour card. Instead, in barely two months, he has won \$734,794, putting him 23rd on the overall 1996 moneywinners' list and earning him a spot in next week's elite \$3m Tour Championship.

Most chilling for his rivals however was Wood's own assessment of his unbelievable streak. "I haven't really played my best yet," he said. "I've hit the ball pretty good but not the greatest, and I haven't had the greatest putting round yet."

Even so, success does not surprise him. "What you guys don't understand," he said after the Walt Disney victory, "is that when I was playing before in pro events I was a teenager. I was in high school and in college. I had term papers and exams... and I was never able to get into a rhythm to play. Now that I'm out here full time, just look at my finishes - 60th, 11th, fifth, third, first, third, first. It's kind of a good rhythm."

Paul Evans and Marian Sutton, who completed a win double for Britain in Sunday's Chicago Marathon, were able to reflect at leisure yesterday on the two best performances of their careers.

Evans, second in last year's New York marathon and third in the London race six months ago, was especially delighted with his clocking of 2hr 8min 52sec, well inside his previous best of 2:10:31. Sutton, controversially left out of the Olympic team this summer, recorded 2:30:41, also a personal best.

Both runners were at least £27,000 richer for winning in the Windy City, not counting time bonuses, which will be worth a further £14,000 in Evans's case.

"That will help pay off the mortgage for a little while," said the 35-year-old father of two who took up athletics only 10 years ago after playing non-League football in East Anglia. "I didn't know how much I was on for in time bonuses. You can't think about money when you are running."

The conditions, just as he had hoped, suited him ideally - "It was 50 degrees, with no wind at all. A very fresh, nice day." He made the most of it, pulling away from Leonid Shterens, of Russia, after 18 miles and consolidating his advantage with three sub-4min 50sec miles.

Evans thus became only the third Briton to break 2hr 30min. He joins Steve Jones - who ran the British record of 2:07:13 on virtually the same course 11 years ago - Paul Davies-Hale and Eamonn

## MARATHON

**Mike Rowbottom on a double triumph for Paul Evans and Marian Sutton**

Martin as a British winner in the Windy City.

Martin, who won last year's race, finished fourth, while fellow Briton Gary Staines came in fifth.

Second place to the Great North Run last month, and a 10 miles personal best in Amsterdam of 46min 34sec three weeks ago, had convinced Evans that he had a real chance of doing well in Chicago after New York, surprisingly, did not find room in its budget for him this year.

He realised he had the race won after 23 miles when the course looped in a U-turn and he could see his nearest rivals running in the opposite direction. "I thought: 'Hang on, I've got a long lead here,'" he said. With a mile to go, after one last look back, he was able to enjoy the moment.

For Sutton, who trains by herself around the streets of her home town of Looe, in Cornwall, the final mile was where the race was won as she overhauled the American runner Kristy Johnson, who had held a 40 seconds lead after 21 miles.

"I was unjustly left off the Olympic team," Sutton said. "I had a point to prove, and I think I've done that."

The Dallas Cowboys warmed up for their most important game of the regular season by posting their least convincing victory on Sunday. And for the Cowboys of '96 that takes some doing.

In five days' time they come face to face with their creator, Jimmy Johnson, a confrontation laden with personal and professional connotations. By common consent Johnson, in his first year at the helm of the Miami Dolphins, is ahead of schedule as he attempts to make his new team the relentless winners the Cowboys once were. By common consent also, the Cowboys - now coached by the charismatic but unconvincing Barry Switzer - are nowhere near the force that has won three Super Bowls in the last four years.

The visit of the winless Atlanta Falcons seemed the ideal fixture to prepare the Cowboys for the bigger battles to come, but even the league's pacifists can give the Boys a run for their money these days. The Falcons led 28-25 deep into the fourth quarter. A 60-yard touchdown pass from Troy Aikman to Kelvin Martin secured a somewhat fortuitous win, but did little to dispel the feeling that something is rotten in the state of Switzer-land.

Miami's preparation was far from ideal either, beaten 35-28 in Philadelphia. Irving Fryar, released by the ruthless Johnson, caught four TD passes from Ty Detmer. "They probably still don't want me back," Fryar said. The Dolphins were no more impressive against the run, with Ricky Walters rumbling for 173 yards.

## AMERICAN FOOTBALL

**Matt Tench reports on the skirmish before the Cowboys' big battle**

The shock of the day nearly came in San Francisco, where the 49ers trailed Cincinnati 21-0 with both their front-line quarterbacks having been knocked from the game. At this point a limping Steve Young, having already aggravated his troublesome groin injury, returned to the field and demonstrated why the 49ers pay him \$5m a year.

He passed for 274 yards, including a couple of TDs, but saved the best until last, limping into the end zone for the winning score with 68 seconds left. "You could not ask for a more gutsy performance," Young's head coach, George Seifert, said after the 28-21 win.

That game was the Bengals last under Dave Shula, who yesterday became the season's first head coaching casualty when he was sacked and replaced for the rest of the season by his offensive coordinator Bruce Coslet. Having recently become the fastest coach to a half century of losses, in many ways the surprise was that Shula lasted so long. The son of Miami's legendary leader Don, Dave was never able to emulate his father. With both beings removed from their posts in the last 10 months it has been a bad year for the Shula family.

Results, standings, Digest, page 25

John 100 100



## sport

# In the professional game, outside-halves will have to go the way centres have gone. They will have to be heavier and stronger

For me, the most interesting aspect of the rugby season in England so far has been the attempted conversion of Will Carling not only into an outside-half, but into a place-kicker as well. Already he fulfils both functions for his club. It is being hinted that he may perform one, or even two of them, for his country also.

It is a truism that great outside-halves are born, not made. What they have traditionally possessed has been a certain arrogance, the will and the ability to control events. Barry John had these qualities in abundance. Mike Gibson was less commanding but equally in control. He became a centre partly to accommodate John at outside-half with the 1971 Lions. There are, indeed, numerous cases of outside-halves

who have become centres; fewer centres who have turned themselves into outside-halves.

The most famous illustration of a transplant that failed to take was provided by Bledwyn Williams in 1947. For months it had been confidently asserted in Wales that the great Cardiff centre's "real" position was at outside-half. He was duly played there in Wales' first full post-war international against England, but failed to make much impact on a game which England narrowly won through a drop goal by his opposite number, "Nim" Hall. Afterward, Williams reverted to his normal position.

Carling is seven years older than Williams was on that occasion. No one, as far as I know, claimed dur-

ing Carling's previous career that he was really an outside-half. The late Clem Thomas did once say to me that his best position would be full-back, but that is slightly different. Today, Carling asserts - what one could have suspected before - that he always wanted to be an outside-half.

Now that Carling's ambition has been belatedly realised, it is not absurd in execution. Among my colleagues I am perhaps in a minority. In the professional game, outside-halves will have to go the way centres have already gone. They will have to be heavier and stronger.

A few years ago a centre such as Lawrence Smith of Saracens was considered a virtual freak because he weighed 15 stones. Today, centres of more than that weight are 10 a



ALAN WATKINS

penny in the First and Second Divisions. At just over 14 stones, Carling is suited to survival in these now, rougher times.

He has played quite well for Harlequins too - as an outside-half,

that is, rather than as a place-kicker. The Quins would not have been the commanding force they are if he had been incompetent. His line-kicking is prodigious, as it always was. His passing is good. He can make the odd half-break. All he lacks is a certain authority, an arrogance if you like.

This is odd when you come to think about it. For that last quality was what Carling was always accused of possessing in over-generous measure. Yet, watching the Quins, you get the impression that events are being controlled by Carling but by Gary Connolly, who plays at outside-centre.

When against Neath last Saturday Connolly went off injured to be replaced by the outside-half Paul

Challinor. Carling reverted to the centre, where he appeared more at ease with himself.

Jack Rowell has said he has decided the English captaincy but is not telling anyone. This is a typical Rowell tease. Can it be, however, that the mystery man is not Lawrence Dallaglio, as everyone has assumed, but Phil de Glanville? This would certainly make sense of Carling's move. The English midfield would then consist of Carling, de Glanville and Jeremy Guscott.

With Mike Catt retaining his place at full-back, this would - in the absence of both Jonathan Callard and Paul Grayson - leave England without a recognised place-kicker. Is this, I wonder, the reason why, late in life, Carling has decided to seek

his fortune through the foot? Perhaps there is a simpler explanation, to do with club rather than country.

The best kicker in the First Division, the wing Michael Corrygan, whom Quins enticed from London Irish, is injured. Even so, it might be doubtful whether he could command a regular place in the Quins' three-quarter line. Likewise, Challinor, a better goal-kicker than he is an outside-half, is denied a place with the stars. So the duty falls on Carling.

That is the simpler explanation. It may be that Rowell has something altogether more adventurous up his sleeve. I still think it would be madness to embark on the Five Nations Championship without a proper place-kicker - which Carling is not.

## RFU under pressure to end row

## Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWETT

The Rugby Football Union's power battle with its recalcitrant senior clubs has been about as fast-moving as Dean Richards on a muddy day at Leicester, but when the two sides resume their long-winded talks today the marathon may have a sprint finish. The RFU are under enormous pressure from outside interests, including their bankers, to settle the issue.

Rebuilding work at Twickenham has put the RFU in debt to the tune of £34m and their treasurer, Colin Herdridge, admitted yesterday that the lenders would be taking a close interest in the progress of the latest round of negotiations. A by corporation tax bill is also about to land on the governing body's doormat and with Rupert Murdoch's BSkyB in impatient mood - they have offered £227m for the right to broadcast European rugby and are pushing for an answer - the squeeze is on from all directions.

"It would be wrong to say that our bankers are telling us how to handle these talks, but they are taking a keen interest in what is happening and, like the RFU itself, recognise that it would be far more beneficial to all concerned to work together with the clubs rather than

face a breakaway situation," said Herdridge, who is on the RFU's four-man negotiating team. "I am upbeat about the prospects for today's meeting."

Epruc, the organisation representing clubs from England's top two divisions, remains suspicious of their opponents despite the fact that some £1.4m in new money is thought to be on the table. They have accused the RFU of throwing away approximately £4m in corporation tax by failing to use profits to finance the game at grass roots level, although Herdridge denied the allegation.

"They say that, but we are prepared to sit down with them and our tax advisers to work out the best arrangement," he said. "Anyway, the £4m figure would only arise if the Sky deal went through. The current figure is rather less."

Bath are expressing an interest in the Argentinian from row forward Federico Mendez, who gained notoriety as a teenager six years ago by being sent off at Twickenham for punching the England lock Paul Ackford. He has since developed into one of the most powerful and versatile tight forwards in world rugby.

Will Green, the Wasps prop, has been brought into the England training squad for Wednesday's session at Marlow to replace the injured Coventry forward Roh Hardwick.

## Angry fans hold up play

## Cricket

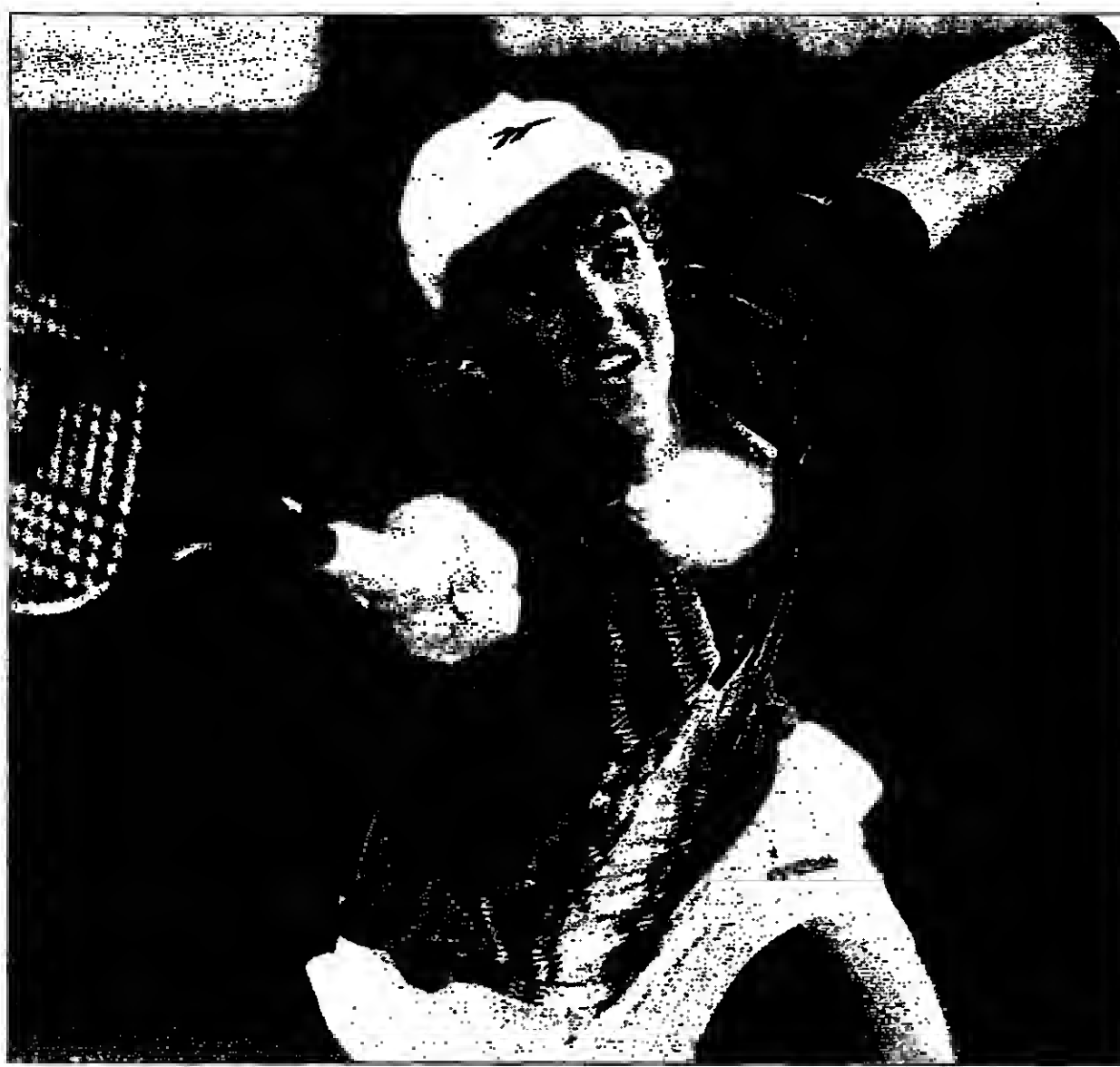
Fans protesting against the dismissal of Mohammed Azharuddin forced a 20-minute stoppage in play in the one-day match between Australia and India in Bangalore yesterday.

India, replying to Australia's 15 for 7, were struggling at 43 for 5 when Azharuddin was given out low to the pace bowler Jason Gillespie. The batsman was clearly unhappy with the decision and spectators began to

hurl plastic bottles on to the pitch and only stopped after pleas from Azharuddin himself.

The mood improved later, however, when India reached 216 for 8, to win by two wickets.

The first Test in Sheikhupura between Pakistan and Zimbabwe ended in a draw after stubborn batting by Andy Flower (204 minutes for 18) and Guy Whittall (130 for 32) allowed the tourists - who needed 178 to wipe out their first-innings deficit and who were struggling at 177 for 5 - to reach 241 for 7 at the close.



Patrick Rafter lunges for a volley during his four-set Marlboro Open victory in Hong Kong yesterday. Photograph: AP

## Henman climbs another notch

## Tennis

Tim Henman, the British No 1, has risen one place to 25 - his highest world ranking - after his achievement of reaching the semi-finals of the Czech Indoor in Ostrava last week.

However, Greg Rusedski, who was beaten 7-6, 7-5 by Henman in the second round in Ostrava, has gone down three places, from 53 to 56, in the latest list, released yesterday.

Both men are in Stuttgart for the Eurocard Open, in which Henman received direct entry. Rusedski had to play in the qualifying competition in Stuttgart, and yesterday he beat David Rikl of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-3, in the final qualifying round to advance into the competition

proper. Henman now has 1,337 world ranking points while Rusedski has 794.

The three other Britons listed in the top 200 are Chris Wilkinson (213 points) in 189th place, Danny Sapsford (209 points) in 194th place and Mark Petchey (197 points) in 200th position.

The Australian, Patrick Rafter defeated Vincent Spadea of the United States, 6-2, 3-6, 6-2, 7-5, in a rain-postponed final to win the US\$722,000 Marlboro Tennis Championships in Hong Kong yesterday.

The 23-year-old Rafter, ranked 56th in the world, won a career-high US\$220,000 for his 27th 35min victory at the Victoria Park court. "It was a very tight match because, no matter how much you try not to think

about the money involved, it is always at the back of your mind," Rafter said.

He said he would take the rest of the year off before starting preparations for the Australian Open in January.

Spadea, 22, also took home the biggest pay cheque, US\$65,000. He was not eligible for the normal US\$100,000 runner-up prize because he was a lucky loser entry into the semi-finals after the fourth seed, Richey Reneberg of the United States, pulled out of the tournament with a stomach virus.

"It was a strange tournament for me," Spadea said. "I have never been a lucky loser before and, after thinking I was out, suddenly found myself in the final. I am happy that I

was given the chance, but not happy with the way I played. There is definitely a lot that I have to improve upon."

Spadea mostly struggled on serve, going to deuce in many games. It appeared that he might force a fifth set when he broke Rafter to go ahead 4-2 in the fourth, but the Australian broke back, and then won the title when he again broke Spadea in the final game, putting away an overhead smash.

The Canadian Grant Connell and Zimbabwe's Bryon Black beat the Australians Andrew Florent and Joshua Eagle 7-6, 3-6, 7-6, in the doubles final. For their efforts, Grant and Black collected US\$85,000 and the Australians received US\$27,500.

## Lyle's Masters invitation for Spain revoked

## Golf

Sandy Lyle, 128th in this year's European money list, has had an invitation to this week's Volvo Masters in Spain taken away after a meeting of the Tour's tournament committee.

The former Open and US Masters champion, who won the Volvo Masters four years ago, was offered a place on 2 August in the £900,000 season-ending event. The committee then decided the six invitations should go to non-members of the Tour and decided that Lyle's spot be offered elsewhere. Only two of the six invitations have been taken up, by South Africa's David Frost and China's Zhang Lian Wei. The 66-strong field has been filled instead by the next players on the Order of Merit.

Lyle, who has not had a tournament victory since his success at Valderrama in 1992, will finish the season having played only 10 events on the European Tour, one less than the minimum allowed. But it will not affect his standing. He has had an

unhappy time on both sides of the Atlantic: he stands 167th on the American circuit and has had to deal with the trauma of losing both parents this year.

Lyle's business manager, Jeremy Ward, said yesterday: "Sandy cannot understand why the members' General Regulations handbook was not amended to define clearly this decision [that only non-members of the Tour be offered invitations to Valderrama]."

Robert Allenby, third in the Order of Merit, has been told that despite fracturing his sternum in a car crash three weeks ago, he has to tee off at Valderrama to collect a bonus from Volvo. If he stays there it amounts to £73,000, so Allenby is flying to Spain from his home in Australia and is likely to play only one shot - possibly with his putter - before returning from the event.

By playing his one shot, Allenby hopes to secure a place in next April's US Masters, but he regrets having to do it because it is keeping another player, Yorkshire's Stuart Cagg, out of the Spanish tournament.

## ET brings home the spoils for Simon

## Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY reports from Monterrey, Mexico

Hugo Simon's triumph in the Pulsar Grand Prix, the closing contest of the Monterrey International Horse Show, leaves the 34-year-old Austrian with the chance of adding even bigger cheques to the £93,000 that he collected for his final victory on the wonderful chestnut, ET.

Simon now begins his three-show cycle for the Pulsar Crown, which continues next year at Luxembourg and at Valkenswaard in the Netherlands. With the bonuses now increased, a grand prix win at either venue would bring him an extra £460,000. Were he to win both, he would collect the jackpot of £1.16m.

Geoff Billington, sixth on it's

Otto, must begin to wonder how many times he has to fill that place - having previously occupied it at the Olympics and in two other major contests here.

The Briton's single mistake in the first round came when it's Otto hit the lowest rail on a triple bar, but jumped high enough to clear the top one. Clear in the second round, he over-ran the time by a split second for an irritating 0.25 fault.

There were reminders of Atlanta disappointments with two first-round errors apiece from Britain's three regular team members, John Whitaker on Grammusch, his brother Michael on Twostep, and Nick Skelton on Cathleen III.

MONTERREY INTERNATIONAL HORSE SHOW (Monterrey, Mexico). Pulsar Grand Prix: 1. Hugo Simon (AUT) on ET (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2. 2. Stuart Cagg (GBR) on ET (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2. 3. John Whitaker (GBR) on Grammusch (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2. 4. Michael Whitaker (GBR) on Twostep (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2. 5. Nick Skelton (GBR) on Cathleen III (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2. 6. Geoff Billington (GBR) on Otto (Dutch Warmblood) 6-1.2.

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## SPORT



ONE DAY IN AMERICA

One nation enjoys a full 24 hours of sport, page 24

## Ferguson needs Cantona back on song

The road began to unboggle yesterday but it will be weeks, if not months, before Newcastle United's astonishing 5-0 win over Manchester United on Sunday can be accurately assessed.

Was it a "blip", as Alex Ferguson suggested, or a landmark? Previous experience indicates that, as far as Manchester United are concerned, it will be the former. Before Sunday they had lost twice in domestic competition this year, 4-1 at Tottenham on New Year's Day, and 3-1 at Southampton in April.

After the first defeat they embarked upon a run of 15 unbeaten matches, winning 15 of

them. By the time they lost at Southampton they had chased down Newcastle's 12-point lead and were top. Between that grey day at The Dell and Sunday they went 13 further matches unbeaten domestically, lifting both the Premiership trophy and the FA Cup.

They will soon have Roy Keane, Ryan Giggs and Phil Neville available. Keane, in particular, was badly missed at St James' Park. Assuming the defeat Fenerbahce at Old Trafford next week, they will be able to concentrate on the Premiership until March, when the Champions' League resumes.

There is, however, one real

concern - Eric Cantona. Having begun the season with his customary panache, he has, of late, been quiet. There were signs in Istanbul of a return to form but he struggled to impose himself at Newcastle, and ended the game snarling and frustrated.

"In the Charity Shield we had some problems, but on Sunday we had some problems with some of our players," said Philippe Albert, Newcastle's Belgian international defender.

"I think that if he looks at the game and is honest with himself he will agree that he was really lucky to stay on the field. He seemed to be upset with all the

Glenn Moore on the shock of a 5-0 defeat for a team not used to losing

things going on around him, especially in the second half.

"I can understand that to a degree, because I had the same sort of feelings when we were being beaten at Wembley. The difference was that we didn't start trying to kick people."

Neither Cantona, nor his team-mates, are used to defeat. One side-effect of this is that they are not well equipped to handle being behind, which



means when they do lose they do so heavily.

They did come back from being 2-0 down against Everton this season, but Sunday's collapse, though dramatic, was more typical. Before the defeat at Tottenham and Southampton (where they trailed 3-0 at half-time) they had been defeated 3-1 by Aston Villa (also 3-0 at half-time) and 3-1 at home to York, albeit with a weakened

side. The previous season there was the 4-0 in Barcelona and a 3-1 in IFK Gothenburg.

One reason is that Manchester United, like Newcastle, are not the sort of team to settle for damage limitation. On Sunday the defensive shape went as players pushed forward in search of a reply, any reply. The marking became haphazard and the passing inaccurate as decisions were rushed.

And yet, had Karel Roborsky scored with a free header early in the second half, the champions might have salvaged something. Until the third goal there was a fragility about Newcastle,

the crowd sensed, or, rather, communicated this to the team. The relief when Les Ferdinand finally scored was immense.

This victory should dissolve some of that fragility. The clean sheet was important, and it should increase defensive confidence throughout the team. Now they must ensure they build on Sunday.

Within minutes of the final whistle, some pessimistic Newcastle fans were saying: "I bet they go and lose to Leicester [on Saturday] now." Victory would equal Manchester United's Premiership record of eight successive wins (Wimbledon also have that target in sight).

Of course, there is another factor in the championship equation: Liverpool. They will have looked at Sunday's match and wondered what might have happened at Old Trafford week earlier had their cuttin edge, Robbie Fowler, not been injured.

The postponement of the Merseyside derby, and their progress in the European Cup-Winners' Cup, has created a fixture backlog. Four matches now need rearranging. Is this a problem - or just another indication that the old days are returning to Anfield? Liverpool go to Newcastle on 23 December.

## Wembley given seal of approval

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

Wembley's adoption as the national stadium now appears a formality following votes of confidence from all three of the main sports involved - football, athletics and rugby league.

Yesterday's announcements by the sports' respective governing bodies confirmed the worst fears of the only rival bidder, Manchester.

The choice of location for the national stadium, which stands to receive major National Lottery funding, is expected to be made before Christmas by the Sports Council, which postponed its decision last November.

Manchester, which has been awarded the 2002 Commonwealth Games, responded in dignified fashion to yesterday's events. A statement from Manchester city council asserted that the final scrutiny of the Sports Council when the two bids are submitted on 6 November would reveal "the quality and deliverability of the Manchester bid."

In the end, however, the factors which have swayed the sports bodies are tradition and reputation. Wembley's im-

perishable history, and its perception abroad as an Olympic venue, have been crucial, even though the £200m scheme proposed will leave only the twin towers remaining from the present fabric of the stadium.

The Football Association - with the highest say in the final decision - announced it was backing the Wembley bid.

The scale of the rebuilding work means the FA Cup final will be moved from the stadium for the first time since the famous "White Horse" 1923 final between Bolton and West Ham. Graham Kelly, the FA's chief executive, said the construction of a national stadium was essential "to achieve our ambition of bringing the 2006 World Cup to England."

He added that issues still to be resolved were legal, financial and commercial, but he was "very optimistic".

Earlier, the British Athletic Federation had become the first of the three governing bodies to throw its weight behind Wembley, with their executive chairman, Peter Radford, admitting the prestige of the 74-year-old stadium had been a huge factor. Radford said: "It is our am-

bition to stage major world and European events and our international colleagues tell us that London, and in particular Wembley with its rich sporting history, would have an outstanding chance in any bidding process."

The first such tender will be for the 2001 World Athletics Championships, with Radford revealing that the Amateur Athletic Federation that it will be bidding for the event.

The Rugby Football League chief executive, Maurice Lindsay, also gave his sport's blessing to the Wembley bid. "We've been playing continuously at Wembley since 1929 and there is so much illustrious history attached to Wembley in rugby league terms," he said. "The Challenge Cup final is synonymous with Wembley and we would lose a lot of the glamour if we took it away."

Last October, the five original bids were whittled down to a shortlist of two, with Bradford, Sheffield and Birmingham falling by the wayside. But since then, the bid process has been altered to allow the FA to select its preferred bidder.



Jack Charlton charms the Café Royal at his book launch yesterday. Photograph: Peter Jay

## Big Jack throws the book at his past life

Mike Rowbottom hears Jack Charlton talk about Gazza, Bobby... and salmon

When Paul Gascoigne was a mischievous 16-year-old on the fringes of the Newcastle United team, his manager of the time, Jimmy Jones, stood him up against a wall and had a little word.

"If you don't start treating the senior pros around here with a little respect," he told him, "you're out the door and I'll see that you never get another club."

Jack Charlton - for it was he - has always believed in the direct approach. But as he recalled that moment yesterday, while launching his book at the Café Royal, his face clouded.

The news of Gascoigne's latest troubles, and his reported assault on his wife, is proving difficult for Charlton to reconcile with the way he recalls Gascoigne in his book - "Gazza was never a nasty or vindictive lad, and he isn't to this day."

He said he had been "very upset" to hear about the domestic incident. "I am very disappointed in Paul," he said. "The other things about him I could understand but there are some things you don't do."

So would he have dropped Gascoigne from his team if he had still been in charge of him? "No," Charlton replied, with an honesty that jolted like one of his tackles for Leeds United. "You don't cut off your nose to spite your face."

Standing in front of a microphone with his feet slightly apart, he resembled a boxer. But it was affection, rather than blows, which rained down on him as he traversed the familiar landscape of his life.

That "little black book" of players to get even with - only metaphorical, ref - which got him into so much trouble all those years ago. Who was in it, then? He demurred. "I've got many other interests in my life now. I've got nothing more to achieve, really... maybe to catch the biggest salmon in the country or something like that..."

At which point Jack Charlton, OBE, Freeman of Dublin, gave a shy grin. It's hard to believe he won't be back somewhere.

For a man who has spent the last 35 years of his life in football, Charlton, 61, seemed remarkably buoyant since resigning as the Republic of Ireland manager in January. "I haven't missed it one little bit," he said. "If I'll get back to football, I don't know. It's difficult when you have been working in what is virtually part-time conditions for 10 years. To suddenly go back to seven-days-a-week football is something I would find very hard."

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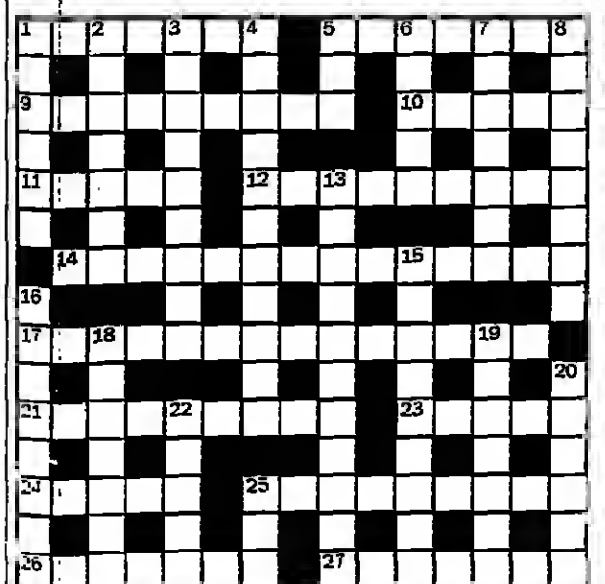
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## THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

No. 324, Tuesday 22 October

By Aedra

Monday's Solution



1 DISTANCE 2 STILLS  
3 BO 4 E  
5 IGNORANT 6 DANGER  
7 D 8 S 9 I 10 N E  
11 EDUCATOR 12 INTER  
13 P 14 B 15 A 16 I 17 O 18 N  
19 CENTRALISE  
20 A 21 E 22 F 23 S 24 B 25 P  
26 INCLINE 27 CONCLUDE  
28 O 29 K 30 E 31 A 32 N 33 S  
34 BEBING 35 DRUMBEAT  
36 N 37 A 38 C 39 A 40 T 41 A 42 L  
43 TURKIFY 44 ATTITUDE

ACROSS

- 1 Play badly on right hand side of platform (7)
- 5 Variegated food with no embellishment (7)
- 9 Performer gives autographs to twins etc. (4,5)
- 10 Moor that is surrounded by sheep (3,2)
- 11 Transport in river flowing back into sea (5)
- 12 Something to pick up signal first for circus performer (9)
- 14 Persons to test out ideas well-reasoned in good committees (8,6)
- 17 Gravity in the moody faint upset benefactress (5,9)

DOWN

- 21 Used to be hard on back-chairs in getting hot and cold here (9)
- 23 Right time to cook joint (5)
- 24 Taking a chance spending day decorating (5)
- 25 Vital sign could reveal a card to win (9)
- 26 English reader who has to make a choice (7)
- 27 Food which upset boy Sean (3,4)
- 1 European thinker rises to continue (6)
- 2 Shock cleaner with pretence over no work (7)
- 3 Home team divided about cold in New York (9)

ACROSS

- 4 Nothing in awfully amusing man is showing generosity (11)
- 5 An afterthought about a dance step (3)
- 6 More trapped in annex tragically (5)
- 7 Was consumer's untruth right in studio? (7)
- 8 Stand in place on island in river (8)
- 13 Uniform diet with reduced salt (11)
- 15 Work-book attempt to portray science of vision (9)
- 16 Not liking, the least hit, European cream? (3,5)
- 18 Be responsible for spin-off with anger (7)
- 19 Old meter's wrong, way out (7)
- 20 Gender not differentiated by church worker (6)
- 22 Large Bible fanatic (5)
- 25 Perhaps word to refer to mistress of the ridiculous (3)

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## FA delay decision over Gascoigne

Paul Gascoigne's England future is in the balance after a meeting between the national coach Glenn Hoddle and the Football Association's new chairman Keith Wiseman yesterday.

The controversies engulfing Gascoigne in the last week have caused concern within the FA, but with Hoddle not due to name his party for Georgia for another 10 days or so the pair agreed to delay a decision.

"They will speak again later this week," David Davies of the FA said. "Glenn will also have further discussions with Paul and Walter Smith, the Rangers manager. Any decisions which affect the England team will be taken when all the circumstances have been considered."

ALAN NIXON AND PHIL SHAW

Ray Harford hopes to pull off a coup by luring the Brazilian World Cup striker, Bebeto, to Blackburn Rovers.

The Rovers manager said last night that he is in talks with Bebeto's club, Flamengo, to sign the 32-year-old as a replacement for Alan Shearer. His Brazilian club, who want around £5m for Bebeto, would let him go on loan for the rest of the season if they could tempt his old partner, Romario, back from the Spanish club Valencia to take his place.

Aston Villa have received

inquiries from Italy and Spain about Savo Milosevic, who was dropped - for the first time in his 16 months with the Premiership club - from the side which beat Leeds on Saturday.

Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, confirmed that Perugia, of Italy's Serie A, were one of two clubs who have asked to be kept informed about Milosevic's availability. An unspecified Spanish club have also been in touch over the Serb, who has scored 14 goals in 36 appearances since a £3.5m transfer from Partizan Belgrade.

Pierre van Hooijdonk, who has emerged as a possible Villa target should they decide to offload Milosevic, has still not

## Harford hopes to sign Bebeto

committed his future to Celtic. The Dutch international, who scored twice in the 2-2 draw at Hearts on Sunday, after which the Glasgow side's manager, Tommy Burns, said he anticipated "no problem" over a new contract for Van Hooijdonk.

The Port Vale chairman, Bill Bell, yesterday lifted his threat to close the First Division club unless a buyer was found within seven days. However, Bell still plans to sell his 80 per cent shareholding and will maintain the club on incoming transfers which prevented the manager, John Rudge, from taking Sheffield Wednesday's Michael Williams on loan last Friday.

Huddersfield stepped in to

borrow Williams, who now face Vale on Saturday. Meanwhile Bell said he would remain until he found "the right person" to take over. "Port Vale are nearer to my heart than anything else, and I can't walk away after 10 years and watch it go to ruin," he said. "I'm going to keep the club going but I'm not going to pump in any money."

Tottenham have failed with a £2.5m bid for the Monaco defender, Emmanuel Pottier.

Manchester City's new manager, Steve Coppell, is interested in signing Watford, £1m-rated goalkeeper, Kevin Miller. Coppell tried to tempt Miller to Crystal Palace while he was at Selhurst Park.

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